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ARAB TIMES

NO. 7498

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 1989

RAJAB 28, 1409 AH

Baghdad starts clearing Shatt Al Arab

Iraq ready to swap POWs immediately

BAGHDAD, March 5. (AP): President Saddam Hussein said today that Iraq is ready to repatriate all the Iranian prisoners of war if Teheran agrees to free all the Iraqis it holds, Baghdad Radio reported.

The state-run radio quoted Saddam as saying that the POW swap could be carried out immediately outside the stalled peace negotiations between the two countries to end the eight-year-old Gulf war.

In a related development, Iraqi port authority officials in the southern city of Basra said today that Iraq has started clearing wrecked ships and war debris from its half of the disputed Shatt Al Arab waterway, the southern boundary between Iraq and Iran.

Reasons

Baghdad Radio quoted Saddam as saying at a meeting with Hans Cobler, president of the Vienna-based International Progress Organisation, a human rights group, that "... for humanitarian and legal reasons, is fully ready to start a total exchange of prisoners with Iran."

A comprehensive POW exchange would be a major breakthrough that could break the deadlock in implementing United Nations Security Council

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OUTSIDE

جی کارروں عکسات میں
یا جا عتیں خاتمت
کا جنہ اخیر کریں، صدر
اچان
کم یا یہی صفات میں
لین کر کے میں پہنچو
بجز اکی ملخ افواج
یا ساتھ میں حص میں لیں گی
وہاں میں قوت نے دیکھا
کوئی مدت دے دی
اچھاتاں میں گئی طاقت
جلد کریں جائے گی
عرفات پاکستان اور
بخارت کا دورہ کریں گے

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be slightly above normal with light variable northerly wind.
State of sea: slight
High water: 11:00 am, 10:00 pm
Low water: 5:00 am, 5:00 pm
Sunrise: 5:00 am
Sunset: 5:51 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 27°C 41°F
Ahmadi: 25°C 77°F
Falkaka: 24°C 75°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 12°C 54°F
Ahmadi: 14°C 57°F
Falkaka: 13°C 55°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 28°C 82°F
Ahmadi: 26°C 79°F
Falkaka: 25°C 77°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 51 per cent
Ahmadi: 70 per cent
Falkaka: 72 per cent

Resolution 598, the basis for the six-month-old ceasefire in the Gulf war.

Iraq and Iran have been bickering since the peace talks began on Aug 25 over implementation of the ceasefire resolution, which calls for a withdrawal to the pre-war border, an exchange of prisoners of war and forming a special panel to assess blame for the ceasefire.

Iraqi officials in Basra said in telephone interviews that work started earlier this week to clear the Shatt, Iraq's only outlet to the Gulf.

They said clearing operations were underway along nine miles (15 kms) of the waterway running south from Maqal, Basra's main commercial harbour before the war, to lift sunken ships, unexploded ordnance and silt accumulated during the war.

Waiting

The two sides have released a few hundred ailing and disabled prisoners since the UN-sponsored ceasefire took effect on Aug 20.

Blamed

But a full exchange has been held up because of the deadlock in the peace talks.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has registered 50,112 prisoners held by Iran and 19,284 Iranians in Iraqi hands. But UN and other officials estimate the total number of POWs to be around 100,000.

Iraq yesterday blamed Iran for

Iran refused to co-operate unless Baghdad recognised the 1975 treaty.

However, Iraq's official media reported on Thursday that Saddam ordered clearing operations to start in the part of the waterway under Iraqi control so shipping could start using it as soon as possible.

Salvage officials have estimated it could take several years to clear the whole of the waterway, formed by the confluence of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers.

Radical guerrilla party leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar was leading the team which would also visit Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other Muslim countries ahead of an Islamic foreign ministers meeting later this month, the sources said.

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Feuding

A consultative council of the seven main Pakistani-based rebel parties chose what they call an interim government in February after nearly two weeks of feuding between Muslim fundamentalists and moderates and a boycott by eight smaller groups in Iran.

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said last week the guerrilla demand for international recognition was premature.

But a Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by official television, said today Islamabad was considering the demand and the group could be recognised at the "appropriate time".

Guerrilla sources said Hekmatyar met Pakistani Foreign Minister Sabahzada Yaqub Khan yesterday with a request that Islamabad take an initiative in according recognition.

The draft does not mention the Tamil revolt against Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority or the Indian peacekeeping troops who were sent to Sri Lanka to disarm Tamil guerrillas and enforce the 1987 accord.

Pledged

But by superseding the 1987 accord, the proposal appeared designed to bring about the withdrawal of the Indian troops, whose departure has been demanded by both Tamil rebels and Sinhalese militants. India has already said it would withdraw its troops, but no target date has been announced.

President Ransinghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka, who took office two months ago, pledged during his election cam-

Afghan rebels seek recognition

ISLAMABAD, March 5. (Reuter): A delegation representing Pakistan-based Afghan rebels left for Teheran today at the start of a mission to seek recognition for their newly-formed government-in-exile, guerrilla sources said.

Radical guerrilla party leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar was leading the team which would also visit Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other Muslim countries ahead of an Islamic foreign ministers meeting later this month, the sources said.

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The draft does not mention the Tamil revolt against Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority or the Indian peacekeeping troops who were sent to Sri Lanka to disarm Tamil guerrillas and enforce the 1987 accord.

Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the clause was aimed at ending the 1987 "Indo-Sri Lanka agreement to establish peace and normalcy in Sri Lanka."

The proposed friendship agreement also says neither India nor Sri Lanka would permit its territory to be used as a base from which terrorist acts could be launched against the other. Before the 1987 accord was signed, Tamil guerrillas ran training camps in India, which has a politically powerful Tamil minority of 60 million.

Succeeded

"We hope that, with the backing of our Syrian brothers, our efforts would succeed," Sabah told reporters at Damascus airport.

The committee, made up of the foreign ministers of Kuwait, Algeria, Jordan, Tunisia, Sudan, the UAE and Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi, was formed after Lebanon's rival factions failed to elect a new head of state in September to replace President Amin Gemayel.

Authority

The Muslims want a bigger share of power, including the curtailment of the authority of the presidency — an office held by a Christian Maronite in line with Lebanon's unwritten national covenant.

Reflecting the existing differences between Lebanon's Christian and Muslim communities, a Druze Muslim militia leader said he was withdrawing his initiative to repatriate displaced Christians to the Druze-controlled Shouf mountains.

Druze leader Walid Jumblatt,

addressing a news conference in the town of Mukhtara, 15 miles (24 km) southeast of Beirut, said the killers of his top security aide Anwar Al Fatayeri were being harboured in Christian East Beirut.

Stop

Aoun, today ordered Lebanon's tiny Navy to stop all foreign ships from entering militia-run ports in a fresh move against warships.

Sabah said the committee was

preparing for a mid-March meeting in Kuwait grouping 30

Lebanese Christian and Muslim

militia and political leaders.

Political sources said another

Kuwaiti envoy will visit Beirut

tomorrow to further pursue the committee's efforts.

Requirements

"The fund also urges Arab and

Islamic peoples to increase their

support to the intifada which has

started to have its impact on the

enemy (Israel) itself and the

international arena," the

statement said.

"The fund will do its utmost

within its capabilities to meet all

requirements of the Palestinian

people in such a manner that

enables them to continue their

uprising," it added.

The statement gave no details,

but PLO sources said that one of

the key results of the meeting was

a series of recommendations for

raising funds to cushion a deficit

in the PLO's budget caused by

the ever-increasing financial burden

in the occupied territories, and the failure of a number of Arab countries to pay their sum-

mit-decreed contributions.

Complained

A programme for Palestinian

financial interdependence has

also been endorsed by the fund,

the sources added. A PLO

official, who asked that his name be withheld, called it a "self-

reliance approach" and said that

Palestinians outside the occupied

lands would "financially support their brethren inside the

occupied lands."

The fund is the equivalent of a

Palestinian finance ministry.

Taking part in the meetings were

a number of PLO executive com-

mittee members and Sheikh

Abdel Hamid Al Sayeh, Speaker

of the Palestine National Coun-

cil, a parliament-in-exile.

Rushdie row scuttled

British hostages deal

NEW YORK, March 5. (Reuter): An almost-completed deal for the release of three British hostages held in Beirut was shattered by Iran's order to kill author Salman Rushdie, Newsweek reported yesterday.

An Iranian envoy was due in London to close the deal the day Ayatollah Khomeini ordered the British author executed, the magazine said in its March 13 edition released yesterday.

"Word in London is that the British had an agreement with Yasser Arafat for the PLO to pay off the Lebanese kidnappers," the news magazine said in a brief story quoting political sources.

It said the secret deal was behind London and Washington's initial "low-key" response to Khomeini's threats last month.

(Continued on Page 2)

against the author of *The Satanic Verses*, believed by many

to be blasphemous.

Newsweek quoted unnamed sources as saying the British Foreign Office began directly

exchanging letters late last year with Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani. It said the Foreign Office first worked

through the Church of England, whose representative Terry Waite is among the hostages.

The magazine said Foreign

Office officials had denied the account.

Iran said today Britain had not done enough in criticising the

Lebanese kidnappers, the news magazine said in a brief story quoting political sources.

It said the secret deal was

behind London and Washington's initial

Baker in Vienna for arms talks

VIENNA, March 5. (Reuters): US Secretary of State James Baker arrived today for the ceremonial opening of twin East-West arms and confidence-building talks and a first formal meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Baker, in office since January, was the first foreign minister to arrive for next week's launching of the 23-nation Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks, described as the most ambitious between the NATO allies and the Warsaw Pact.

Integrated

Shevardnadze, during a weekend visit to Spain, said: "The stakes at the Vienna talks are very high." The first formal talks between the two men are due on Tuesday morning.

It will be the first time all 16 NATO and seven Warsaw Pact

allies have sat down at the same negotiating table.

France is a NATO member but not part of the alliance's integrated military structure and for that reason did not participate in East-West talks on mutual and balanced force reductions (MBFR) in Vienna which the new arms talks are designed to replace.

Parallel talks involving 35 states will be launched on confidence and security building measures (CSBM) in Europe, a follow-on to the 1984-86 Stockholm talks where East and West agreed to swap information on military manoeuvres and allow foreign observers to watch.

Both sets of talks start on Thursday at different times and at opposite ends of the same building — the Hofburg Palace once used the rulers of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

Endorse

During the launching ceremony the 35 foreign ministers are expected to take stock of developments since they were last in Vienna in January to endorse a CSCE package which

linked the arms talks to progress in human rights.

Czechoslovakia, which sent in police against demonstrators in Prague on the day the package was approved, is expected to come under attack for jailing playwright Vaclav Havel and other prominent dissidents who took part in the protests.

France had refused to take part if the talks were exclusively between the two military blocs.

While France is happy with the arrangement, some NATO countries, particularly the United States, are worried that it might give the 12 neutral and non-aligned members in the CSCE a say in alliance military

talks.

NATO, which argues that the Warsaw Pact has a big advantage in three major categories of battlefield weapons — battle tanks, artillery and armoured troop carriers — will be urging the establishment of overall ceilings on their deployment.

UN chief calls for flood control

DHAKA, March 5. (AP): UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar today called on the international community to help find a permanent solution to floods that periodically devastate Bangladesh.

"It is imperative to seek long-term solutions to recurring floods in Bangladesh and reduce its consequences. The people of Bangladesh should not have to endure such hardships year after year," Perez de Cuellar said.

Floods inundated three-fourths of Bangladesh last year, killing an estimated 1,400 people and leaving 25 million homeless.

The UN secretary-general arrived in Dhaka yesterday after completing a six-day tour of the Coaches," British Rail (BR) chairman Sir Robert Reid said.

BR accepted responsibility for yesterday's crash near Purley, south of London, as teams using heavy lifting gear continued to shift mangled wreckage, clearing the rails and seeking clues.

It pledged an urgent inquiry into why two London-bound trains were on the same track at the same time.

Faster

"It looks at this stage as if the faster train side-wrecked (the other)," said BR southern region manager, Gordon Pettitt.

The impact of the crash sent six

British Rail launches probe on fatal crash

LONDON, March 5. (Reuters): Britain's state rail company, shaken by its second fatal crash in the London suburbs in three months, launched an inquiry today into how an express smashed into another train, killing five people and injuring 90.

"We shall look at the signalling, we shall look at the permanent way, we shall look at the driving techniques, we shall look at the operation, we shall look at the mechanical condition of the Coaches," British Rail (BR) chairman Sir Robert Reid said.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

950 freed under royal amnesty

AMMAN, March 5. (Reuters): Jordan has freed about 950 convicts pardoned by King Hussein to mark the creation of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC), local newspapers reported today.

They said the prisoners were released last night under a royal amnesty announced on Feb 18.

King Hussein had ordered the release of most prisoners who had served more than half their terms. The jail terms of others were halved.

Ariane-4 rocket

KOUROU, French Guiana, March 5. (UPI): The launch of a French-built Ariane-4 rocket carrying two satellites, including Japan's first relay station, has been postponed at least until tomorrow because of a pre-launch mishap, officials said today.

Protest march

PARIS, March 5. (UPI): Tens of thousands of high school teachers marched through the streets of Paris yesterday in the latest of a series of protests and strikes designed to put pressure on Socialist Prime Minister Michel Rocard as municipal elections approach.

Afghan rebels seek recognition

(Continued from Page 1)

delegation was likely to visit, the guerrilla sources said.

Hekmatyar left with his party's foreign relations director-general Ghairat Baheer. Some members of the 11-man delegation were already in Tehran and others would join him tomorrow, guerrilla sources said.

Army units today resumed firing on rebels hidden in the hills north of Kabul.

As the second stage of a large convoy of supply trucks rolled towards Kabul down the Salang highway from the Soviet border, Army units on the city outskirts opened fire with artillery and rockets.

At Khair-Khana 12 km (eight miles) from the city, salvos from multi-barrelled rocket launchers and shells from 152-mm field guns were fired northwest towards the rebel-held Char-kadara valley.

Afghan President Najibullah said a state of emergency imposed three days after the last Soviet troops left Afghanistan is temporary and an Afghan official said it would be lifted well before its three-month deadline expired.

Strongest

Najibullah, in a wide-ranging interview made available today, issued one of his strongest denunciations of Pakistan's continued support for mujahideen and what he called its "armed intervention and interference."

He reiterated his view that Pakistan was "colluding with extremist groups" to bring down his government and create a Pakistan-Afghan confederation and he gave his strongest support yet to the idea of a UN peacekeeping force to monitor an eventual ceasefire in the nine-year war.

Referring to the state of emergency he declared on Feb 18, three days after the last of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan under UN-mediated accords, Najibullah said it "has a passing character and is temporary".

Protect ozone layer, urges Moi

LONDON, March 5. (AP): The threat to the ozone layer is a global problem whose disastrous effects know no national bounds, President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya told an international conference today.

Moi and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who is the host of the conference, urged delegates from 12 nations to take practical steps to eliminate the man-made chemicals which are depleting the fragile atmospheric shield.

Chemicals known as chlorofluorocarbons, which are widely used as coolants in refrigerators and air conditioners and to clean electronic and computer equipment, destroy the ozone layer which protects the earth from the sun's cancer-causing ultraviolet rays. The chemicals also contribute to the greenhouse effect by trapping heat at the earth's surface.

Protocol

Moi urged all countries which have not yet signed the 1987 Montreal protocol "to join us in the endeavour to protect our planet."

The agreement, ratified by 31 countries, calls for a 50-per cent reduction in chlorofluorocarbons by the turn of the century.

Some countries have already gone further. The United States plans to eliminate chlorofluorocarbons altogether by 1999 if substitutes can be found. The 12-member European Economic Community has a similar target.

"It is not a concern of only a few members of an exclusive club. All members of the international community have a duty to protect the ozone layer," Moi said.

Thatcher said that while every country bears the consequences of ozone depletion, those who produce and use chlorofluorocarbons "have a heavier responsibility than others."

"It falls to them to do most to remove the causes of the problem," she said.

Arafat proposed talks with Shamir...

(Continued from Page 1)

"Tell Rabin that it's a package deal, without it we cannot proceed even in stages," he was quoted as saying.

But he rejected other Israeli suggestions to reach an interim settlement before a final agreement on the Middle East conflict.

Arafat also said he has been ordering Palestinians to refrain from using firearms in their 15-month uprising against Israeli rule. "I am imposing all my force and efforts to prevent its use. It isn't easy but they are carrying out my orders," he said.

The United States today held out prospects of a substantive dialogue with the PLO on Mideast issues, but stressed its continuing displeasure with guerrilla raids against Israel.

A senior US official in Vienna, speaking on condition he not be identified, said the "real dialogue" depends on the Arabs and the Israelis staking out their positions first.

There is no intention to call off the US talks with the PLO the official said.

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INTERNATIONAL

Cyprus talks to open amid doubts

NICOSIA, March 5. (Reuters): UN-sponsored talks to end the 14-year division of Cyprus enter an intensive phase tomorrow despite deep differences and doubts whether agreement can be reached.

President George Vassiliou and Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash will meet at the residence of the UN representative in a buffer zone running across Cyprus, a UN spokesman said.

"The talks are not going anywhere at all. When you analyse things, there is no common ground. You find out how big the difference is," a Greek-Cypriot political analyst told Reuters.

Progress

"I'm not saying there's no hope, just that there is very little," he added.

"But if it (the negotiating process) fails this time it's going to be very hard to begin again," the analyst said. "I don't think anyone will dare say 'let's restart negotiations'."

The search for a Cyprus settlement opened six months ago but has made little progress other

than an exchange of position papers. A target date of June 1 set by the United Nations for an agreement seems unrealistic to most observers.

Vassiliou and Denktash decided to meet 10 times in just over three weeks from Monday for off-the-record discussions after UN officials were reportedly disappointed at the slow headway.

Cyprus is divided by ceasefire lines set in 1974 when Turkey invaded the northern third of the island after a coup in Nicosia engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Turkish Cypriots declared the breakaway Turkish Republic of North Cyprus in 1983. Turkey, with an estimated 29,000 troops on the island, is the only country to recognise it.

Preparations for tomorrow's talks were threatened when Denktash objected to statements last week by Vassiliou who told British parliamentarians in London that the discussions would be substantive but there was a basic conceptual difference between Greek- and Turkish-Cypriot views.

China depicts Tibet as a 'slave society'

BEIJING, March 5. (Reuters): A picture of a peasant with his eyes gouged out appeared in a Chinese newspaper today as part of a propaganda campaign depicting Tibet as a "slave society" in the days before communist rule.

The campaign coincides with the approach of the 30th anniversary on March 10 of a mass uprising against Tibet's Chinese rulers.

The People's Daily showed pictures of the means it said were used to keep 95 per cent of the Tibetan population in servitude to government officials, nobility and monks who owned the land and nearly all the livestock before 1959.

Demonstrations

It showed a peasant whose eyes it said had been gouged out as punishment for offending his master, stocks used to hold prisoners and whips, chains and knives used to beat them.

Chinese troops took control of Buddhist Tibet in the early 1950s to enforce Beijing's claim to sovereignty.

The failure of the 1959 uprising caused Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama to flee to

India with thousands of his followers.

Almost all Tibetan monasteries were destroyed after the uprising and the Dalai Lama has never been allowed to return.

In the last 18 months Buddhist monks have staged several pro-independence demonstrations in the Tibetan capital Lhasa which have turned into bloody clashes with armed police.

Western sources in Lhasa have said monks and nuns want to hold more protests to mark the March 10 anniversary, although Chinese officials have repeatedly warned that China's sovereignty over the Himalayan region is not negotiable.

The New China News Agency has also published interviews with pro-communist Tibetans such as Lhalu Cewangdorji who took part in the 1959 rebellion.

The agency quoted Lhalu, 74, as saying he did not expect to survive after the uprising was crushed because he was the largest slave owner in Tibet and had killed people.

He said he was spared because he "confessed his crimes.. and became a 'new man'" through 20 years of manual work.

Generals pledge support to constitution

Mahdi to form new government

KHARTOUM, March 5. (Reuters): Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said today he would stay on despite an earlier threat to resign and announced the formation of a new broad-based government.

He told a news conference he had received assurances from his generals, who openly challenged his rule two weeks ago, that they would continue to respect the constitution.

Trade unions, he said, had also pledged to freeze strikes.

Yesterday, 30 Sudanese political parties and several key unions agreed to adopt a peace pact to end nearly six years of civil war in South Sudan.

The agreement was contained in a document that is to serve as a working programme for the new government to replace Mahdi's existing coalition.

But the militant National

Islamic Front (NIF), a coalition member which takes a hawkish stand on the war, boycotted the final round of negotiations yesterday.

Peace

Mahdi said the new government would provide quick, consistent support for the armed forces and would work for peace in South Sudan.

He said a series of meetings would be held soon "to serve the question of peace" but did not elaborate.

The military last month complained to Mahdi that it lacked political backing and was poorly equipped and supplied. It gave the prime minister seven days to implement reforms, a deadline that expired last Monday.

Mahdi, expressing fears of a military coup, told Parliament the day the deadline expired that he would resign today unless he

received assurances from the Army and the unions.

But Mahdi told the news conference: "I shall now continue the journey of responsibility."

Mahdi, 53, said he would immediately begin consultations to form a new government to rule Sudan until general elections scheduled for April next year.

New elements

He did not identify parties that would form his new broad-based government but political sources close to the existing government said it was likely to exclude the NIF.

Mahdi said the new government would be sworn in as soon as possible and would include trade union representatives.

The 60,000-strong Army has suffered a series of reverses since September in its war with rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The political sources also said NIF had opposed the formation

Arab and Western diplomats said last week that troops in besieged southern garrison towns had little ammunition and no food.

Last November, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) signed a peace pact with the SPLA, fighting to end what it sees as domination by the Arabised, Muslim North over the Christian or animist South.

The DUP quit Mahdi's coalition government when parliament rejected the peace accord, which the NIF described as a humiliating surrender.

Harmony

The military problems in the South have been compounded by domestic unrest in the North, with frequent strikes to protest against rising prices and poor pay.

The political sources also said



Arafat to visit Pakistan and India

ISLAMABAD, March 5. (AP): PLO chairman Yasser Arafat will visit Pakistan for two days this week, the Foreign Ministry said today. He will hold talks which are expected to focus on Middle East peace and laying the foundation of Palestine Embassy in Islamabad.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation leader is scheduled to arrive on Wednesday and leave on Friday on his first official trip to an Asian country since the declaration of a Palestinian state last November.

Pakistan, a Muslim nation of 107 million, is staunchly anti-Israel and pro-PLO. Islamabad and several other Muslim and Arab capitals, immediately recognised the Palestinian state as the previous Israel-occupied West Bank of the Jordan River.

Arafat will meet with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto but most of his itinerary will not be disclosed in advance for security reasons, a Foreign Office spokesman told reporters.

Embassy

Nevertheless, he is expected to lay the foundation stone of a new Palestinian Embassy and possibly discuss mutual recognition with a newly-formed interim government of Afghanistan headed by Muslim, anti-communist rebels.

The Foreign Ministry was still working out details of Arafat's visit, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

From Islamabad, Arafat will go to New Delhi on a two-day visit to exchange views with the Indian leaders on various issues.

India was among the first countries to recognise the newly declared Palestine state.

Official sources said the Indian government has decided to extend to Arafat all the courtesy that is usually conferred upon a head of the state.

Arafat's schedule during his visit is not known, but it is expected that it will be more important following developments in the Middle East, which has brightened prospects of peace in the region.

India has supported convening of an international peace conference to find a permanent solution to the Palestine question.

Algerian military quits politics

ALGIERS, March 5. (Reuters): Algeria's armed forces have announced that they are quitting politics.

The move is part of a major reshaping of the country's political life under a new constitution that abandons a 27-year commitment to socialism and opens the way to a multi-party democracy.

It was announced last night after a meeting between President Chadli Benjedid and senior officers of the Army and Defence Ministry.

Colonel Yahia Rahal, central director of the Army's political commissariat, said in a statement distributed by the official news agency APS that the military had decided to withdraw representatives from the central committee of the ruling National Liberation Front.

The armed forces would no longer play a political role,

Links
Close links between Algeria's Army and ruling party date back to the FLN's guerrilla struggle against French colonial rule which ended with independence in 1962. Army officers have long played a major behind-the-scenes role.

President Chadli, who took office in 1979 after the death of Houari Boumedienne, was himself an Army colonel. He is still defence minister and commander-in-chief.

APS said President Chadli had accepted their resignation from the central committee. The agency did not say how many Army representatives there were in the central committee.

SINGAPORE, March 5. (UPI): More than 2,000 couples are eligible for a \$10,000 income tax rebate for their fourth child under the government's "procreation incentive", official statistics revealed today.

The party has been divorced from executive power, the government is now formally responsible to parliament and prohibitions on political groups outside the FLN have been dropped.

Colonel Rahal said that after the approval of the new constitution in a referendum last week "it is necessary that the National People's Army should be above political debate, insofar as it is in future called upon to develop within the framework of the creation of associations of a political character."

Tendencies

"The National People's Army should not be implicated in the complex play of tendencies because, as a force at the service only of legal authority, it must keep intact the unity of its ranks and the discipline of its commitment for the defence of the superior interests of the nation and the free choice of the people," Colonel Rahal said.

APS said President Chadli had accepted their resignation from the central committee. The agency did not say how many Army representatives there were in the central committee.

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Mubarak said in a speech commemorating Preachers' Day that senior Muslim sheikhs had ruled that family planning was not against Islam, and that it was up to preachers to make the call for family planning a major issue in their sermons.

In its campaign against overpopulation, the government has been very careful to stress it is advocating family planning, and not birth control.

Advertisements show families with two or three children living happier and better off than families with more children.

"Overpopulation is a terrible threat, but some I am sorry to say do not realise its dangers and still call for more children without thinking or understanding the size of the danger," Mubarak said. His comments were carried by the Middle East News Agency.

Weapons

"To save ourselves from this threatening danger, we need many weapons, but one of the important ones are the preachers themselves and transmitting this understanding of the problem to the people, especially those who have limited religious and social consciousness," he added.

Some Muslim extremists reject any form of birth control. Some religious groups have accused the United States, which has poured money and birth control methods in the government's campaign, of forcing birth control on Egypt to weaken the Muslims.

"The overpopulation problem has become so dangerous, it cannot stand arguments from extremist thinking," Mubarak said.

He pointed out that all efforts to develop Egypt and improve the economy were thwarted by the overpopulation problem.

Singapore gives bonus for 4th child

ABU DHABI, March 5. (UPI): An exiled former president of South Yemen told a Gulf newspaper that a group of his associates were released from prison yesterday by rival Marxists who overthrew him three years ago.

Former President Ali Nasser Mohammed described the release of 35 political prisoners in Aden as a step towards national reconciliation, Abu Dhabi's Al Ittihad reported today.

"The latest baby boom enticement, essentially a five-year tax holiday, applies to parents of all four children born on or after Jan 1, 1988. Fearful the current population of 2.6 million is heading towards extinction, Finance Minister Richard Hu outlined a budget packed with giveaways for large families.

The \$10,000 bonanza follows a similar rebate in 1987 for a third child. Of the record number of 52,000 births during 1988, 2,040 were fourth children. An additional 15 per cent tax rebate on the wife's earned income will also be granted for a fourth child in lieu of maternity leave. Also raised were "enhanced child rebates," allowing working mothers to claim extra income tax relief of up to \$7,500.

Ali Nasser and his allies were the losers in a 1986 upheaval in South Yemen's ruling party. He fled the country and was sentenced to death in absentia by the new government of President Haider Abubaker Al Attas.

Hundreds of his followers were also sentenced to death or prison in absentia.

He told Al Ittihad that those released included former ministers

South Yemen frees political detainees

stars of information, education, and energy and mining, and that charges had been dropped against two exiled former members of the politburo.

The newspaper quoted Ali Nasser as saying new proposals for a political settlement have been presented to the government in Aden. He did not make clear whether these were passed directly or through a third party.

"A solution will be based on cancelling sentences against all involved in the 1986 events and starting a direct dialogue to ensure the return of all refugees," he told the paper.

The presence of Ali Nasser and thousands of his supporters in North Yemen created tension with the South when Sanaa refused to hand them back.

Journalist killed

ADDIS ABABA, March 5. (Reuters): A veteran Ethiopian journalist was shot dead in the Eritrean capital of Asmara yesterday, the official Ethiopian news agency reported.

Mehari Missegina, 53, an ethnic Eritrean, was known for his opposition to the separation of Eritrea from Ethiopia.

India has supported convening of an international peace conference to find a permanent solution to the Palestine question.

Christian Dior

MAQUILLAGE HAUTE COULEUR



SPRING-SUMMER COLLECTION.

Christian Dior Beauticians will demonstrate the Christian Dior style of applying "SIMPLICITE", the latest colour collection, and advise on proper skin care at the following retail outlets:

| OUTLETS | TEL. | DATES (March) | OUTLETS | TEL. | DATES (March) |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Jashanmal & Partners Ltd. | | | Safeway, Fahheel | 3927228/9 | 6-15 |
| Kuwait | 3420071/2 | 6-15 | Sultan Center, Salimiya | 5719620/1 | 6-15 |
| Jashanmal & Partners Ltd. | | | | | |

Power-grid talks open in Amman

AMMAN, March 5. (KUNA): The Technical Committee assigned to discuss the electricity link-up of Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey and Syria opened three days of talks here yesterday.

The committee to discuss technical aspects of the electricity grid that is to link the five countries and agree on initiating economic feasibility of the project.

The committee groups directors general of those countries' electricity institutions and representatives of the Islamic Development Bank and Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.



Kuwait in pictures

By Hamid Siddiqui

"PHOTOGRAPHY is my profession as well as my hobby," says Azmat Sheikh, a noted Pakistani photographer who has achieved acclaim for his "Glimpses of the Holy Places" and "Journey through Pakistan," both pictorial publications that depict places of worship in Saudi Arabia and a comprehensive view of Pakistan.

His latest publication "Kuwait Pictorial" has been released by the Ministry of Information on the 28th anniversary of Kuwait's National Day. The book, which contains a panoramic view of Kuwait's past and present does not only reflect the photographic skills of Sheikh and his immense affection for this country.

"After spending more than 30 years here, Kuwait is just like my homeland," says Sheikh who has witnessed every stage of Kuwait's development from a desert Sheikdom to a teeming metropolis with high rise buildings, well maintained road networks, parks, well designed seaports and to crown it all generous social services which cater to all those living here.

"I have spent the best of my time here and got everything I needed," remarked Sheikh.

He was particularly grateful to the Assistant Undersecretary for Foreign Press at the Ministry of Information, Rida Al Feeli who encouraged the venture and provided him with every possible facility to produce "Kuwait Pictorial." The ministry he said provided him with a special helicopter for aerial photographs of various beautiful spots in the country.

Information Minister Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad is the great patron on such artistic activities which project Kuwait," Sheikh observed.

The photographer is now planning a world tour to pursue his hobby and has already received invitations from various countries.

Health seminar opens in Dubai

DUBAI, March 5. (KUNA): A seminar, organised by the General Secretariat of the Arab Gulf Health Ministers' Council, on human resources opened here yesterday.

The four-day seminar will discuss a number of research papers on the need for human resources to meet development of health services and challenges to medical education in member countries.

Members of the seven delegations, representing UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and Iraq, today made field visits to a number of medical institutions in the UAE.

Ahmad Nijim, the public relations controller at Shuaiba area stressed the necessity of establishing a Kuwait University Community Service Centre to reduce the time students spend in travelling from Ahmadi governorate areas to the main university.

Amiri grant will motivate government employees: Rashed

KUWAIT, March 5. (KUNA): State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed paid tribute here today in the name of all state employees to His Highness the Amir for the generous financial grant accorded by him to all state employees and retired citizens on the occasion of the 28th National Day.

Rashed, in statements to a local daily, said His Highness' grant will motivate employees to ameliorate performance in accordance with his instructions.

Proposal

Replies to a question over circulating reports that government grade-appointed employees will be re-appointed on new contract-based salary equal to their grades, he said that was only a proposal among many submitted to Civil Service Council committees.

Rashed, however, stressed that the proposal was unrealistic and that there was no reason such a proposal be adopted by the government, which is keen on



Rashed Al Rashed

the interests of the citizens.

He dismissed as baseless reports which say that Kuwait may be faced with a problem of unemployment in the future, saying the government has its future plans and aspires for active participation of the private sector in offering job opportunities to graduates in various specialisations.

Rashed, however, stressed that the proposal was unrealistic and that there was no reason such a proposal be adopted by the government, which is keen on

GCC foreign ministers review developments in the region

RIYADH, March 5. (KUNA): The six GCC foreign ministers assembled in Riyadh today to review political developments in the Gulf region and the Arab world with special attention to the planned resumption of stalled Iran-Iraq peace negotiations.

Efforts

The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain will be holding their first meeting since the last December Gulf co-operation summit in Bahrain.

The GCC ministerial council, which will be presided over by Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin

Mubarak Al Khalifa, would also review developments of the Palestinian question and efforts to hold an international conference on peace in the Middle East, a GCC source said.

The council's busy agenda is further expected to include Lebanon and other Arab matters in addition to GCC trade with the European Economic Community and the international oil market, the source added.

Unanimous

The Riyadh meeting was highlighted by newspapers across the six GCC countries as the dates appeared unanimous in their assessment that the Gulf countries have enough political weight and moral strength to attain their goals.

Relations with Kuwait are distinguished: Moroccan envoy

KUWAIT, March 5. (KUNA): Moroccan Ambassador to Kuwait, Abdel Wahid Bin Masoud described his country's relations with Kuwait as "distinguished and developing in all areas."

The ambassador, in an interview with a local daily, lauded Kuwait's role in solving complex issues in the region, based on reliable political weight.

Address

Masoud pointed out in particular Kuwait's efforts to halt the Gulf war and the UN address by His Highness the Amir in connection with Third World countries debts, in his capacity as chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

He also hailed the support for Pan-Arab and humanitarian

issues accorded by the government of Kuwait chaired by HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, and praised efforts exerted by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed in his capacity as chairman of the Arab League Committee on Lebanon.

Joint action

The ambassador said the recently-declared Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) is a form of joint Arab action that enhances integration between its member countries disclosing that the AMU will have its own parliament.

The ambassador expressed his country's support to Arab solidarity, the Palestinian uprising and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

GCC seminar on child literature

THE Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) seminar on child literature continued its session in Doha yesterday in the form of research on the "upbringing of children."

Discussions focused on the childhood stage as being paramount in the life of a human being. During this stage the child

is at an impressionable age and easily assimilates customs, skills, social, physical and intellectual characteristics, was the consensus opinion at the seminar.

The seminar was opened in accordance with the recent recommendations of the GCC ministers of culture.

The four-day seminar will discuss a number of research papers on the need for human resources to meet development of health services and challenges to medical education in member countries.

Members of the seven delegations, representing UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and Iraq, today made field visits to a number of medical institutions in the UAE.

Ahmad Nijim, the public relations controller at Shuaiba area stressed the necessity of establishing a Kuwait University Community Service Centre to reduce the time students spend in travelling from Ahmadi governorate areas to the main university.

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INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

One more villain, some more trouble



Sridevi and Mithun romancing in Guru.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery

UNTIL March 19: Recent paintings by British water colour artist Patricia Mills will be shown at the Ghadir Gallery, Salhiya Complex, mezzanine, Gate 5, Complex from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8.30 pm. Sultans Gallery

AN exhibition of paintings by Bangladeshi artist Mumtaz Islam is open at the gallery. Thunayyan Al Ghaniya Bldg, Al Soor St., daily except Friday from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8.30 pm.

Kuwait Science Museum

DAILY: 5 pm onwards: Natural history exhibits from and in around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards. Islamic Arts Museum

SAT - Thurs: 3.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts; ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Al Salwa Museum

SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world. Saku House

SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts - rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

MUSIC

Concert

MARCH 14: Mouchira Issa gives her first performance of the year at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel, New Grand Ballroom, at 8 pm. For reservations contact the hotel's banquet office.

Best Concert

MARCH 31: A beat concert featuring the Perfect Strangers will be held from 10 am at the Sharq Co-operative Hall. For details call Anthony D'Souza or Arjun Gehi. Tel: 2631826 or 2663693.

Sports Great

A REVUE directed by Ken Winston will be staged from March 31 to April 4 at the UAS, Salwa. A casting meeting meeting will be held at the Sunshine School, Salwa, on March 4, 8 pm. Actors, actresses, singers and dancers required. For details ring 5740256/7 or 5625316.

EXHIBITION

Bengali Book Show

BENGALI books written by Bangladeshis are still on show at the Bangladesh embassy in Jabiya. More titles are likely to be displayed this week.

Higher Education

IN Britain

MARCH 11-15: The British Council presents an exhibition on British Higher Education. It will feature information on all aspects of higher education in Britain. A group of senior staff from Scottish universities will attend the exhibition. For details contact Education Advisor Kate Harries. Tel: 2520067.

Modern Kuwait

UNTIL March 8: The Kuwait University's Art and Culture Department is holding a photographic exhibition on "Modern Kuwait" at the College of Commerce, Adeliya.

Ormond Street Hospital Gala Dinner will be held at 8 pm. For details call 4831339; 5393151.

British Tea Party

MARCH 10: The British Tea Party/animal fun day will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel from midday with fun stalls, animal-painting competition, children's super-star contest, soccer and basketball, Leo's magic and other events. For details phone 5624111 ext. 751/739.

Masquerade Ball

MARCH 10: 6 pm. KAPILKU Masquerade Ball at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Andalus Club. Awards for best costume, best mask, best couple. Parlour games and raffle contest are added attractions. Buffet dinner. Entrance: KD. 5.

Contact

MARCH 11: The next meeting of the ladies information group will be held at 10 am at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Please note change of venue. For details call 3720197; 4874513; 5388105.

Hair Science Class

MARCH 17: A one-day hair science class will be held at Holiday Inn Hotel, 2 to 6 pm. Certificate of attendance will be given. Entrance free for all KAPILKU members. For details call Ojie Olor - 5634200.

SPORTS

Keep-fit

SATURDAYS (5-6 pm) aerobics for ladies; (6-7 pm) mixed aerobics; instructor Tuovi Pahikasalo.

Sundays: (5.30 pm): squash handicap tournament.

Mondays (6-7 pm): Separate keep-fit classes for men and women. Instructors Christine and Steve Hill incorporate aerobics and weight training in the programme.

At the Meridian

EVERY Thursday is Jam Session at Le Brasserie, music by Remy D'Mello; sea food buffet and lots of fun. Family fun on Fridays with oriental buffet and musical entertainment.

At the Pullman

ELYSEES Restaurant offers gourmet French meal; Al Shalal Coffee Shop features international and Arabic cuisine with live entertainment.

At the Holiday Inn

EVERY Wednesday is "Sea Drama on Ice" in Al Dama. Enjoy fresh fish and seafood specialties. Thursday night is Indian night featuring exotic eastern cuisine; and listen to the music played by the Gharibian Trio.

Enjoy Arabian Night in Al Andalus Supperclub on Thursday nights. Friday brunch - fun time for families; games, prizes. Also open to Jaycees Club members.

At the Sheraton

RICCARDO'S: Italian cuisine prepared using homemade pasta; lunch and dinner, evening entertainment by the Sienna Duo. Closed on Fridays.

Al Hambra: Sundays: Lebanese cuisine; Tuesdays: Thai Night; Wednesdays: seafood night; musicians provide a blend of music from the East and the West.

Friday's buffet brunch while the children enjoy games in the Ballroom next door.

Hunt Room: lunch and dinner rest., specialties in meat and fish dishes.

Le Tabouche: offers a taste of Lebanon for lunch and dinner. Thursdays: Arab world specialties night.

Coffee Shop: offers casual meals and quick lunches plus a daily special.

HOTELS

At the SAS

BISTRETTO: A new Italian restaurant has been opened at the hotel. A selection of Italian dishes are offered in addition to international and local specialities prepared by Chef

By Fathima Ahmed

ONE more villain, some more trouble and a three more films — Joshua, Do Qaidi and Guru. Yet the good guys always triumph.

In Joshua writer Javed Akhtar, perhaps, worked over time to put together the newest screen monster in the form of Jogi Thakur, played by Kajish Vivek, adding one more bad man to the growing list of villains in Hindi films.

Jogi Thakur is neither an ascetic nor an aristocrat; he is a menace — nasty, ruthless, cruel and deadly — with a single-minded purpose of destroying everyone and everything.

Jogi joins the ranks of other screen villains like Gabbar Singh and Dr Dang. Jogi's character is central to Joshua's theme: he is the first to pull the trigger, and, he calls all the shots.

Horses gallop in the desert, dust rises, bullets fly, tempers flare, fire blazes, the informers get a dose of Jogi's deadly potion, and so the story goes on and on.

And the price of Jogi's head shoots up.

Larger than life locales, lavish sets and a cardboard city built in the desert form the backdrop for this cat and mouse game, which needless to say, ends in mayhem and destruction with a rather predictable ending. But not before director Sibt Hasan Rizvi turns the full circle of violence, wrapped in a glamorous, slick package complete with Sridevi and Meenakshi — who serve as pretty props in the arid desert village.

Structured on the style of Hollywood westerns, Joshua offers poor "desi" (local) cowboy substitutes vying for stellar honour with the likes of John Wayne. The movie, filmed in Ladakh, is worth seeing if you care to know what Jogi Thakur looks like or how Sridevi plays Gulab; or Sunny rides a horse or Anil handles a gun.

Do Qaidi

The theme of Do Qaidi is structurally weak and the plot is on a wild goose chase, pursuing two petty thieves instead of identifying the real troublemakers.

Guru

Guru (Mithun Chakraborty) can be compared with Karan, Dara, Manu or Kannu. The only difference is that he works out in the gym, fights the street bums and wants to become a police officer. Well, no prizes for guessing the end.

Guru's mission, like the rest of our heroes, is not surprisingly, similar. He acts fast, talks fast and is rather temperamental, that is to say, he is not Mohan Baggad, who directs the action sequences in scores of Hindi films.

There is a double bonanza in the form of Sridevi, playing the "good girl" and the "bad girl", both to Guru's advantage.

The only disadvantage is that we've seen all this before, except for the novel use of technology. Laser guns are stolen from under the nose of security men for daring gold robbery in broad daylight. Video cameras expose moles in the villain's den; flashbacks tell the sad, sad tale of separation 20 years ago and director Umesh Mehra cons us into believing it was all his idea of a good evening's entertainment. It could be if you took everything with a pinch of salt.

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya, Tel: 4712906 and Falcon Video, Tel: 4316398.

Tuovi Pahikasalo

SUNDAYS (5.30 pm): squash handicap tournament.

At the Continental

GARDENIA: 7 am to midnight; buffets featuring Arabic, Continental and Indian food. Special buffet for Thursday dinner and Friday lunch. Dabar: daily Indian lunch buffet, except Friday; a la carte dinner.

At the Meridian

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Manu (Sunjay Dutt) and Kannu (Govinda) are small-time crooks with hearts of gold. By the connivance of story-writer Pushpa S. Choudhury they get enmeshed in knee-deep trouble, fleeing for their lives through the jungle (somehow, they find sufficient time to dream about dancing with their girls Farha, Neelam in the woods).

Nothing in the film lifts it from pits of despair and mediocrity, despite the implausible heroics of the young and the old. Dialogues, replete with rhetoric and platitudes, make matters worse. Stereotypes KK (Amrit Puri) and Bichchu (Gulshan Grover) add to our woes.

If someone has the habit of fast-forwarding songs and fight sequences, he/she would be able to watch Do Qaidi, a 17-min film, in less than 45 minutes.

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There is a double bonanza in the form of Sridevi, playing the "good girl" and the "bad girl", both to Guru's advantage.

The only disadvantage is that we've seen all this before, except for the novel use of technology. Laser guns are stolen from under the nose of security men for daring gold robbery in broad daylight. Video cameras expose moles in the villain's den; flashbacks tell the sad, sad tale of separation 20 years ago and director Umesh Mehra cons us into believing it was all his idea of a good evening's entertainment. It could be if you took everything with a pinch of salt.

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya, Tel: 4712906 and Falcon Video, Tel: 4316398.

SUNDAYS (5.30 pm): squash handicap tournament.

At the Continental

GARDENIA: 7 am to midnight; buffets featuring Arabic, Continental and Indian food. Special buffet for Thursday dinner and Friday lunch. Dabar: daily Indian lunch buffet, except Friday; a la carte dinner.

At the Meridian

EVERY Thursday is Jam Session at Le Brasserie, music by Remy D'Mello; sea food buffet and lots of fun. Family fun on Fridays with oriental buffet and musical entertainment.

At the Pullman

ELYSEES Restaurant offers gourmet French meal; Al Shalal Coffee Shop features international and Arabic cuisine with live entertainment.

At the Holiday Inn

EVERY Wednesday is "Sea Drama on Ice" in Al Dama. Enjoy fresh fish and seafood specialties. Thursday night is Indian night featuring exotic eastern cuisine; and listen to the music played by the Gharibian Trio.

At the Sheraton

RICCARDO'S: Italian cuisine prepared using homemade pasta; lunch and dinner, evening entertainment by the Sienna Duo. Closed on Fridays.

Al Hambra

Sundays: Lebanese cuisine; Tuesdays: Thai Night; Wednesdays: seafood night; musicians provide a blend of music from the East and the West.

Friday's

buffet brunch while the children enjoy games in the Ballroom next door.

Hunt Room

lunch and dinner rest., specialties in meat and fish dishes.

Le Tabouche

offers a taste of Lebanon for lunch and dinner. Thursdays: Arab world specialties night.

Coffee Shop

offers casual meals and quick lunches plus a daily special.

At the SAS

BISTRETTO: A new Italian restaurant has been opened at the hotel. A selection of Italian dishes are offered in addition to international and local specialities prepared by Chef

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.25 Cartoon Serial
10.00 Al Jar Min Hanan: Arabic serial, starring Abdul Rahman Al Rashid, Rabee'a Shihab, Shafiqah Tall

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

ASK yourself whether you are happy, and you cease to be so — John Stuart Mill, English philosopher — economist (1806-1873)

OPINION

End to Lebanese crisis in sight

IS the Lebanese crisis on its way to being solved? Has the tension ended in Lebanon? These are the questions being asked by people now.

As an answer to the second question we can safely say that the tense atmosphere surrounding the Lebanese crisis has recently greatly retreated and have perhaps ended.

This is because the issue is no more a card that is being used or played within the context of international detente or in the distribution of areas of influence.

The card of the Lebanese issue and civil war are no more important as it used to be to many countries. In the eyes of the forces who were dabbling with this issue it has become a costly game.

Consequently, the motives that created tension in Lebanon have almost disappeared. Still, many Lebanese are asking — how quickly will a final solution be reached at?

All signs indicate that presently the Lebanese crisis is on the right path to a solution. Suffice it to say that the partition fear has totally disappeared and this fact has been realised by all sides and factions.

All developments indicate that fears of partition that predominated the period of President Amin Gemayel have vanished. The developments, which are numerous, confirm that the issue of Lebanon's partition is totally ruled out.

What is not ruled out is the return to the spirit that prevailed before the civil war. The Lebanese people who fought each other with money and weapons provided by others paid an expensive price — largely Lebanese blood and in the form of Lebanon's destruction.

Tensions that were goading Lebanon to become a centre for influencing peddling and conflict have now disappeared. Even those previously involved in fighting for influence in Lebanon, now want the Lebanese file closed because it has become very costly.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Palestinian uprising

Film tries to curb excessive force

By Allyn Fisher

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM. (AP) A Palestinian youth, his chest wrapped in a bloody bandage, dies of a plastic bullet wound. His relatives scream and bang their fists on hospital doors to express their grief.

The dramatic scenes in the occupied Gaza Strip are part of new Israeli Army instruction film, shown to foreign journalists, that commanders say is intended to counter a tendency by soldiers to use too much force when quelling Arab rioters.

"This death oils the wheels of the uprising," the narrator says, summing up one key message of the film at a time when Israel is coming under increasing criticism for harsh treatment of Palestinian stone-throwers.

At least 388 Palestinians have been killed during the nearly 15-month-old uprising against Israeli rule, most by Army gunfire and several from beatings. Seventeen Israelis, including six soldiers, also have died.

Brig. Gen. Ehud Gross, the Army's chief education officer, said the 40-minute movie reflects concern in the military about soldiers using excessive force against protesters.

Power "You know about the use of excessive power. We have some problems with it. You have a small unit with a mission in the Gaza Strip, someone loses his temper and uses too much power," Gross said.

"We try to reduce the feeling of trying to use excessive power when you get into a situation where you are humiliated or hurt. To teach them to cope with it, bury it, put it behind you," he added.

Disciplinary action for these breaches have been taken against several hundred troops during the uprising. About 50 have been put on trial.

Gross indicated that illegal use of force was even more widespread because troops hesitated to report on their colleagues "because they don't want to violate the value of solidarity."

Excessive beating has raised particular concern among officials on foreign television newscasts.

This problem was dramatized this week at the trial of four troops accused of beating a man in a Jbelay refugee camp to death last summer while conducting an arrest in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Israel's Chief of Staff, Lieut

General David Elazar

Gen. Dan Shomron, who testified at the trial, said the policy of beating was intended to subdue rioters, not inflict punishment. But he noted there is a "grey area" where the soldiers must use their own discretion.

Gross said the movie was made partly to address this issue.

"We understand there is some confusion. So we don't want to leave so much open to interpretation."

The movie shows several scenes of soldiers using clubs against rioters, and a narrator points out which beatings were illegal.

Shomron is also shown saying "it must be clear that at the moment when your goal is completed, there is no use of force for punishment or revenge."

The film also shows tank battles in an attempt to point out the difference between regular combat and confronting civilian violence.

Destroy

"We are trained to destroy our enemy. But today we are fighting on a different kind of front. What kind of a battlefield is this?"

The narrator says, as a jeep is shown cruising through a dusty refugee camp.

Another

Another segment shows a soldier firing his rifle repeatedly at a 45 degree angle on a street after being stoned by protesters.

"This is wrong. It is indiscriminate shooting. It causes many casualties, sometimes innocent people," the narrator says.

Power

"We need to maintain our self-control," the narrator adds, after a scene in which a soldier says, "I felt this incredible anger. They were cursing at us, throwing stones, and we couldn't do anything to stop it. I just wanted to grab someone and do I don't know what him."

Sessions

Gross said the film has been shown to all reservists sent to patrol in Gaza since December and that a second film was being produced about the West Bank.

Soldiers also now undergo special two- or three-day sessions in which they are taught how to deal with rioters, Gross said.

Although the main goal is to reduce casualties, the troops are also urged not to shy from confrontations with protesters, he added.

"We are trying to help soldiers cope with the dilemmas they face, how to deal with morals and fulfil their mission best," Gross said.

In post-Soviet Afghanistan

By Bernd Debusmann

ISLAMABAD, (Reuters) Afghanistan's warring parties and their foreign backers are preparing for the next round of a conflict which could plunge the country into a free-for-all reminiscent of Lebanon.

In the jockeying for position following the departure of the last Soviet soldier from Afghanistan, parallels with power struggles in Lebanon are being drawn with increasing frequency by diplomats and analysts who monitor the war.

The elements for chaos and violence are in place: huge supplies of weapons from the superpowers, vast sums of outside money to buy influence, ethnic minorities with age-old grudges, tribal warlords competing for wider powers, fierce personal rivalries.

Disintegration

The United States, the Soviet Union, Iran and Pakistan all support rival camps and factions with guns, money and advice.

"Who will prevent Lebanonisation of Afghanistan?" asked a recent front-page headline in the

Many cooks stir lethal broth

Pakistan Times over an analysis which raised the prospect of the country's disintegration into separate principalities run by rival warlords.

The newspaper answered its own question with a gloomy conclusion: "At the moment, one can hardly see any party... effective enough to prevent Afghanistan becoming another Lebanon."

Arsenals

After the Soviet Union withdrew the last of more than 110,000 men on Feb 15, the Afghan conflict reverted to what it was before Moscow intervened in December 1979: civil war between a left-wing government bent on imposing reforms and Muslim "holy warriors" (mujahideen) who felt their culture and age-old traditions were under threat.

Almost 10 years of war killed, by most estimates, more than a million people. It laid waste large parts of Afghanistan and drove more than one third of the pre-

war population of 15 million across the border into refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran.

Afghanistan's lost decade also saw the transformation of rebel arsenals from a motley collection of World War II rifles to the most lethal equipment superpower money could buy and guerrilla fighters could capture, from heat-seeking missiles to heavy artillery and tanks.

What did not happen

After the Soviet Union withdrew the last of more than 110,000 men on Feb 15, the Afghan conflict reverted to what it was before Moscow intervened in December 1979: civil war between a left-wing government bent on imposing reforms and Muslim "holy warriors" (mujahideen) who felt their culture and age-old traditions were under threat.

A government-in-exile formed on Feb 23 by the seven guerrilla groups based in Pakistan appeared to be no more representative of Afghanistan as a whole than the administration of President Najibullah in Kabul.

It was the second "interim government" formed within a year and excluded representatives of eight rebel groups based in Iran. Three of the seven Pakistan-based chiefs declined

to take posts in the cabinet-in-exile, suggesting even they had doubts over its viability.

The man elected president of the exile government after two weeks of wrangling, moderate Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, said the exile administration represented no more than a third of Afghan opinion.

Buffer

"In the absence of solutions, the 'great game' continues," said a diplomat, referring to the days when Afghanistan served as a buffer between Tsarist Russia and an Indian empire ruled by Victoria Britain.

Today's great game is played both for religious and political stakes, a combination which has helped invite comparisons with

Lebanon.

The United States, which provided the mujahideen with weapons, said after the Soviet withdrawal it would continue supplying arms for as long as Najibullah's government remained in power.

Moscow meanwhile turned over huge stockpiles of weapons to its Afghan clients before pulling out, under an accord under UN auspices and signed in Geneva last April.

Distributing

Pakistan, host to more than three million Afghan refugees, has played a central role in distributing US-supplied weapons to the various rebel groups and thus gained more influence in Afghanistan than it ever had.

According to diplomatic sour-

ces, Pakistan's powerful Inter Services Intelligence, the agency which funnels arms to the rebels, is pressing them to seize a major city as soon as possible and move the interim government there.

Several senior rebel commanders are opposed to such tactics, saying they would prefer to concentrate on taking Kabul first. Once the capital has fallen, they argue, the rest of the country will follow without much resistance.

Although many signs point to the possibility of the guerrillas turning their guns on each other once they topple Najibullah, some seasoned observers say the multiple proxy wars that ruined Lebanon may never happen in Afghanistan.

"Perhaps the Afghans will do what they have always done best," said a Western envoy. "That is take as much money and as many weapons as they can get from outsiders, then turn round, kick everybody in the butts and do exactly what they please."

prime minister in 1910. An uncle was foreign minister in the 1920s, and other ministers and parliamentarians figure in the family tree.

Resign

Boutros Ghali served as acting foreign minister in 1977 and 1978 when ministers Ismail Fahmy and Mohamed Kamel resigned over Sadat's peace policy.

Respectable and slightly stooping, Boutros Ghali is a technocrat who avoids the limelight. But he is no stranger to disagreement.

Angolan officials accused him last year of confusing public opinion by saying in a television interview that Angolan leaders were ready to talk with the rebel UNITA movement.

During Egypt's peace negotiations with Israel, the Jewish state's then-premier Menachem Begin made no secret of his dislike for Boutros Ghali. At one stage, Israel tried to have him removed from Cairo's team. He stayed.

Low-key

In choosing Boutros Ghali for his high-profile negotiating team, Sadat plucked him from a successful but low-key public service career.

He was a member of the political bureau of the ruling Arab Socialist Union Party and president of the Centre for Political and Strategic Studies at Al Ahram newspaper, where he had earlier helped to found and edit a weekly economic magazine.

Journalists taught him to write simply and "helped me to come out of the university's ivory tower," he wrote in the magazine's 1,000th edition last year.

anything but the barest essentials," the doctor said. Like most Iranians who talked to foreign reporters, he asked not to be identified.

The situation is infinitely worse for the ordinary people who have to feed a family on the equivalent of a monthly salary of \$50," he added.

With salaries so low and prices rising daily, many Iranians have to work at least two jobs to make ends meet and blame Musavi's widely criticised government for their plight.

Top clerical leaders concede there is economic hardship, but blame the war. Widespread allegations of corruption, also blamed for shortages, forced prosecutor-general Mohammad Hussein Khoemini to demand "harsher punishment for embezzlers and swindlers to rid public organizations of deviation."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1664 — France and Brandenburg form alliance.

1836 — Alamo mission in San Antonio, Texas, falls to Mexican Army after 13-day siege in which Davy Crockett and 186 other defenders die.

1922 — United States prohibits export of arms to China.

1933 — Poland occupies part of Danzig.

1945 — German city of Cologne falls to US First Army in World War II.

1946 — France recognises Vietnam as free state within Indo-China federation.

1953 — G.M. Malenkov succeeds the late Joseph Stalin as premier of Soviet Union.

1957 — Two former British colonies of Gold Coast and Togoland form independent West African nation of Ghana; Israeli troops hand over Gaza Strip to United Nations force.

1962 — United States pledges to defend Thailand against direct communist aggression without waiting for action by Southeast Asia Treaty Organization.

1965 — US Defence Department announces that 3,500 Marines are being sent to South Vietnam — first US ground combat troops committed to fighting against communist guerrillas.

1970 — Alexander Dubcek, former Czech Communist Party boss, is suspended from party.

1971 — South Vietnamese report capture of key communist supply hub in Sepone (Tchepone) on Ho Chi Minh trail in southern Laos.

1987 — Terrorist raid on a Tel Aviv hotel leaves 14 dead.

1987 — Rudolf Hess, 92-year-old former Hitler deputy and last imprisoned leader of Nazi Germany, is in British military hospital with pneumonia.

1988 — Thousands of Tibetans demanding independence set fires throughout their capital city of Lhasa.

Kim cult intense in North Korea

When the visitors asked if they could get a Kim pin as a souvenir, tour guide Yoon Mu Ho responded: "We cannot give it or sell it to you because only followers of Kim and his juche idea are entitled to wear this badge."

The juche idea is the 76-year-old Kim's guiding philosophy of political and economic self-reliance.

At one model school shown to the visitors from Hong Kong, every classroom has a picture of Kim in a gold-coloured frame. In a hotel in Kaesong, 135 kms (85 miles) southeast of Pyongyang, Kim's picture is in every hotel room as well as the restaurant.

The "great leader" also is a constant companion in train and subway stations, as well as in train and subway cars.

Many adults in Pyongyang wear Kim pins on their clothes.

"No one will choose not to wear the great leader's picture because we all respect him," a tour guide named Park told a group of visitors from Hong Kong.

In paintings portraying Kim receiving foreign visitors, he

always stands confidently while the guests bow or approach him. None show the disfiguring lump that bulges from his neck.

The official Pyongyang Sun-mun (Pyongyang News) uses slightly larger and darker type for Kim's name; his speeches are printed in bold letters. State-run television regularly runs documentaries on his achievements. The capital is filled with banners and slogans wishing the "great leader" a long, healthy life.

Dynasty

Kim, who has led his country since the Korean peninsula was split into a communist North and capitalist South at the end of World War II, plans to hand power over to his eldest son, 47-year-old Kim Jong Il, in what would be the world's first communist dynasty.

Official publications began

praising the younger Kim in 1971, calling him "dear leader." The Pyongyang News also uses larger type for Kim Jong Il's name. In some places, his picture hangs beside his father's.



The swimming pool by David Hockney.

David Hockney at 50: still popular, prolific

By Lyndsey Callender

LONDON: "I was born in Bradford in 1932. Until I was 11 I went to the local council school. Then I went to Bradford Grammar School on a scholarship. I was not really happy there; I was probably too bored. At the age of 11 I had decided in my mind, that I wanted to be an artist."

Forty years on, David Hockney is the most popular and prolific British artist of his generation. His range of subjects, materials and styles seems limitless. His paintings are represented in collections throughout the world, and his public persona — dyed blond hair, owl-like spectacles and boyish manner — is legendary.

Yet David Hockney is only 50, with a long career ahead of him. His success has done nothing to change the candour and stoicism of this native of Yorkshire who started the school of British pop art.

Success has done nothing to change the candour and stoicism of this native of Yorkshire who started the school of British pop art.

"Clinging" of 1961 is a typical example. It incorporates his quirky device of writing words on painting, and it is also an early example of the theme of homosexuality, which recurs throughout his work.

After graduating from the RCA, Hockney made his visit to the city that was to become his home and the inspiration for his best-known images — Los Angeles. There he found a sense of liberation, both personal and artistic.

The first of Hockney's swimming pool paintings dates from this period, another leitmotif of his work. Hockney was fascinated by the representation of water, its surface reflecting the light in snaking patterns of blue and white, or distorting the bodies of his swimmers. Swimming pools, palm trees, lawn sprinklers and cube-like villas became symbols of Los Angeles and all it stood for.

At their best, the paintings of this period are exuberant and inventive, as in "Portrait of an Artist" of 1971. But others are flat and lifeless — not helped by his exclusive use of acrylic paint at that time.

More interesting, more penetrating and thoughtful, are Hockney's double-portraits of the late 1960s. They depict people whom he knew and understood, which explains the new humanity that they reveal, and their naturalism. "Mr and Mrs Clarke and Percy," one of his most familiar images, proves the point.

Satisfied
Hockney has never satisfied unless he is exploring a new avenue, taking on a new challenge, or stretching a medium to new limits. By the early 1970s, his pursuit of naturalism had reached an impasse. Then in 1975 he received a commission that gave him a renewed sense of direction:

the design of Stravinsky's opera "The Rake's Progress" for a production at Glyndebourne, Sussex, southeast England. Hockney's love of music and theatre, and his resourcefulness, resulted in a highly-acclaimed stage design on this occasion and on many more to come.

In 1981 Hockney received a rare commission for designing stage and costume for two evenings of opera and dance at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. The first comprised three French works: Jean Cocteau's ballet "Parade" set to music by Eric Satie, Poulen's comic opera "Les Mamelles de Tiresias" based on a play by Apollinaire, and Ravel's one-act opera "L'Enfant et les sortileges" based on a story by Colette. The second evening consisted of three works by Stravinsky: "Le Sacre du Printemps", "Le Rossignol" and "Oedipus Rex". In each case Hockney weighed up the needs of the medium, the subject and his own creative input, and found a perfect balance.

The early 1980s saw the short-lived but prolific period of Hockney's photographic collages. In subject they ranged from portraits to landscapes, from buildings and roads to groups of figures. What they had in common was the rejection of a single viewpoint in favour of a multiple one — the cubism of photography as it were.

Hockney devoted reel upon reel of film to a single subject, seen from different angles, then assembled them, some overlapping, others repeating. It was a selective process in which he, the artist, could choose which areas to highlight and which moments to depict. In "The Scrabble Game", for example, he juxtaposes pictures taken over a short time, so that we are presented with a single player looking pensive, then downcast, then inspired.

"When I was 11, my father was painting old bicycles. I used to watch him. The fascination of the brush dipping in the paint, putting it on, I love that even now. I loved it then..."

That delight and fascination, and that ingenuous joy, still shine through Hockney's work today.

Thirty years of unstinting productivity have passed, and there may be as many to come.



CONFUSED ABOUT VITAMIN NEEDS

QUESTION: Although I realize vitamins are important, I must admit that I'm totally confused about which ones I need and how much to take. One of my friends claims that you can't get enough vitamins and takes massive doses to prevent cancer. Can you help me chart a safe course?

ANSWER: If history can help predict the future, this answer will provoke a wide variety of mail, with most of the writers telling me how little I really know and offering to write the column for me. And though I think I have already heard it all, there will be new stories of how someone escaped sure death by ignoring the advice of a traditional physician and accepting the claims of a modern day snake-oil merchant.

Vitamins are truly remarkable chemicals when used for a specific reason or purpose. They were originally discovered as being the necessary component of a diet to cure a deficiency disease, an ailment actually caused by the lack of sufficient vitamins. Scurvy in sailors on those romantic old square-riggers was overcome with citrus juice (limes, lemons and oranges) because it was a fine source of Vitamin C. Incidentally that is how British sailors, and the English

ish became known as "limeys." Citrus was made part of the marine diet to overcome the disease.

Most of the other vitamins were discovered in like manner, as the needed substance in the diet to overcome a deficiency disease. About 40 per cent of the adult American population takes additional vitamins and minerals on a daily basis, and with such a large population, misuse may often occur. An RDA (Recommended Daily Allowance) has been established as "the levels of essential nutrients considered in the judgment of the Committee on Dietary Allowances of the Food and Nutrition Board on the basis of available scientific knowledge, to be adequate to meet the known nutritional needs of practically all healthy persons."

They provide a solid base for all needs, as we may then increase the amounts where specific deficiency conditions exist, as in pregnancy, poor health or poor nutrition. Vitamins used in these cases are considered "therapeutic agents" rather than "nutritional supplements." Currently there is no vitamin that is known to cure or prevent cancer. Your pharmacist or physician will be happy to indicate the

proper quantity of vitamins that fulfill your personal dietary needs.

QUESTION: I recently read a booklet about loss of hearing due to loud noises. Does that mean the dryer at my hairdresser could rob me of my hearing?

ANSWER: The effects of loud sounds upon hearing depend upon two factors, the intensity of the sound (how loud, measured in decibels) and the amount of time you are exposed to the sound. Obviously all dryers do not make the same amount of sound, but you may assume that if the noise level is high enough to interfere with understanding speech, it may be high enough to do some damage, but only if you are exposed to it for a long enough period of time.

I doubt that either the intensity or exposure time to beauty parlour hair dryers would be enough to damage your hearing. The amount of discomfort you may be suffering cannot help us evaluate the situation, since that does not relate directly to the possible damage. You may be wise, however, to obtain a pair of earplugs, or use wadded cotton in your ears to reduce your hazard.

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Italy seeks cash for unearthing buried treasure

By Clare Lovell

HERCULANEUM, Italy, (Reuters): Italy is hoping that with the help of international cash it will unearth some of the finest surviving treasures of the ancient world, buried for 1,900 years under volcanic mud and lava.

The Roman city of Herculaneum, destroyed by the same devastating eruption of Vesuvius that swept over nearby Pompeii in 79 A.D., has been only partially excavated. Archaeologists believe exceptional examples of classical architecture lie almost intact beneath the debris of centuries.

"If we could uncover the city, it would be magnificent, and much more valuable than Pompeii," said professor Baldassare Conticello, chief custodian of the two archaeological sites just south of Naples.

Idea

At the beginning of this century the idea of seeking funds abroad to excavate the sites was turned down as an affront to national dignity. Today every effort is made to stimulate foreign interest in Italy's ancient heritage.

The professor said Herculaneum was less well-known than Pompeii with its famous erotic wall paintings, largely because of the small size and inaccessibility of the site.

"Herculaneum is buried under 27 metres (88 feet) of solidified lava so it's very difficult and expensive to excavate, whereas Pompeii, which was covered in ash, was uncovered just by hand," he said.

Conticello's newest project, for which an international appeal is being launched, involves the excavation of what was probably the town's most luxurious villa. Archaeologists believe it may have belonged to Julius Caesar's father-in-law.

Overlooked

Among the pine trees of the cobbled streets, overlooked by the ramshackle modern buildings of Ercolano, stand an ancient brothel with its lewd wall-paintings and two mosaic-covered bath houses with sophisticated water-heating systems.

Even wooden beams and furniture were preserved at Herculaneum, carbonised by the intense heat of the eruption.

"Gradually we have been buying up little parcels of land, but



The Roman city of Herculaneum, destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD. Italy hopes to generate international funds to unearth the classic treasures that lie underneath.

many of the locals aren't interested in selling — they aren't interested in what lies underneath," he said.

"We think one of the main streets of Herculaneum lies under the main street of the new city, so we can't get at that."

But the treasures that have been discovered since excavations began in earnest in the 1920s, and that are still painstakingly being brought to light by Conticello's team, represent the wealth of classical art and architecture.

Seaside villas of rich families from Rome and Naples, with magnificent terraces and delicately painted frescoes, stand beside shops and bars still containing the wine flagons and bread ovens of ancient times.

Truly piled skeletons are one of the most gruesome finds at Herculaneum.

Conticello's newest project, for which an international appeal is being launched, involves the excavation of what was probably the town's most luxurious villa. Archaeologists believe it may have belonged to Julius Caesar's father-in-law.

The villa, Dei Papiri was recently discovered by 18th century archaeologists. They dug several wells through the rock to try to reach it, but but abandoned the project after several workmen were killed by poisonous gases.

Conticello believes the villa has three terraces at different levels down to the beach, with

panoramic views of the Mediterranean, a swimming pool, a network of rooms decorated with mosaics and paintings and extensive gardens.

He recently returned from a trip to America to seek financial help for his project. "We need 171 million dollars. There has already been some interest in Italy and overseas. We are working on it," he said.

Finance for the general upkeep of Herculaneum and Pompeii and continuing excavations comes from the government, which sets aside two billion lire (1.4 million dollars) a year.

But the money is quickly used up.

"We hope to get an extra grant in March to restore some of Herculaneum's excavated buildings. They were last done in the 30s and some of their supports are crumbling," Conticello said.

Vesuvius casts a still menacing shadow over the town. Since its most devastating eruptions in 79 and 1631, the volcano has kept relatively quiet, but it continues periodically to spew out rock and smoke.

The local people are philosophical. "We don't think about it happening again. I suppose we just hope it won't," a Herculaneum guide said.

Warhol's pop art world on show

By Peter Elsworth

NEW YORK, (Reuters): Square silver balloons floating above a corridor wallpapered with yellow and blue cows' heads give an instant introduction to the pop art world of the late Andy Warhol.

Warhol, who dominated the 1960s New York art scene and introduced the world to the artistic qualities of soup cans and other mundane objects, is the subject of a blockbuster show at the Museum of Modern Art here.

The show fills two floors of the museum and features some 300 paintings, drawings, sculptures, photographs and films by Warhol, who died on February 22, 1987, following surgery in New York.

The first floor of the show appropriately displays a number of self-portraits of the artist, who made a cult out of himself and his white toupee, but always remain aloof and detached.

He was the most deadpan personality I've ever met, totally silent, poker-faced, passive, a total sphinx," art historian

Robert Rosenblum said, adding that "talking, if you can call it talking, to him was like talking to a brilliant mute."

"I don't like to touch things, that's why my work is so distant from myself," the artist once said.

Typically, the portraits are dominated by multiple images of the same photograph, silk-screened onto canvas and painted in bold, flat colours.

However, as the show progresses, the images become starker and the bold colours of commercial design begin to appear.

Warhol's best work is generally considered to have been done in the mid-1960s, when he worked out of a studio in New York known as The Factory.

There he produced repeated silkscreened images of such everyday objects as dollar bills, Coca-Cola bottles and boxes of Brillo pads.

These culminated in the familiar rows of Campbell's soup cans and portraits of such cultural icons as Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe, all of which are on display.

"Warhol was a graphic artist with a background in advertising. He knew how to capture the

Major art discovery of the century

By Godfrey Barker

FORTY unknown drawings by William Blake were unveiled at Christie's auction house in London recently. It was the Blake discovery of the 20th century.

The drawings are part of a 49-leaf album dating from 1819, the year of the poet and painter's strangest visionary project.

Under the influence of the artist John Varley, Blake convinced himself that people's faces and features were determined by the signs of the Zodiac and drew a gallery of portraits to prove it.

A man who apparently owns no other important books or works of art came to Christie's front desk in King Street, St James', and produced the album from a brown envelope.



The Black Prince.



Colonel Blood.



Charlemagne.

"He knew it was by Blake but had no idea of its uniqueness or importance," said Anthony Browne, Christie's English drawings expert.

"When we hinted at its possible value — we are saying, for so unique an item, over £500,000 — he was, if I may say so, as astonished as we were to see it."

The drawings, which will be auctioned in London in March 21, arise from one of the Romantic Movement's weirdest and most phantasmagoric episodes.

Blake and Varley were fascinated by the 18th century idea that vice, virtue, failure and greatness are written into human physiognomy, and they met night after night to hold seances aimed at summoning up the great faces of history. In deft and decisive ink

Some woken from sleep were less obliging. The Empress Maud (Queen Matilda, Stephen's wife) told Blake she could not endure "to be considered as a vapour arising from your food."

Despite this supernatural craving for publicity, only two of

Blake's images were published. They appear in Varley's *Treatise on Zodiaca Physiognomy* of 1828, among the worst widely-ignored books ever written.

Though the faces — from the Athenian tyrant Peisistratus and Potiphar's wife in ancient history to Colonel Blood, thief of the Crown Jewels, in the 1670s — are well enough known, Blake's drawings of them could be by no one else.

Staring eyes and fearless gazes, gigantic foreheads, curvilinear brows and an air of destiny are common to all.

The visions summoned up are the Romantic Movement's idea of history as the story of heroes — the men and women who, by chance or determination, changed the fate of humanity.

A revolutionary life-saving alarm spells hope

Cot Death Syndrome: help for worried parents

After Clive Thomas' son Stephen died of the baffling Cot Death Syndrome, he was determined to try to save other babies from the same fate. Now after years of research and spending a fortune, Clive has invented a device the size of a cigarette packet that warms when a baby's temperature drops.

By Lynda Black

THE loss of a baby son from the baffling Cot Death Syndrome was a devastating tragedy for doting father Clive Thomas.

For years afterwards he could not bear to look at a baby sleeping serenely in its cot — it terrified him.

But out of that fear has come new hope for parents afraid of a similar tragedy in their own household.

For since the death of his baby son Stephen 18 years ago, Clive's study of Cot Death Syndrome gradually became an obsession.

Now businessman turned inventor Clive has sunk £200,000 of his own money into developing a new baby monitoring device that could save thousands of lives.

Clive says: "After my own son's death I saw a new type of baby monitor on a television programme and I thought to myself: 'If only we had had one of those Stephen would still be alive.'

"Since then I have discovered that particular type of monitor probably wouldn't have saved him as it only monitors movement and not breathing. By the time a monitor shows that the baby is not moving it is probably already dead."

"I have watched a baby's temperature drop dramatically within minutes and the baby change colour. It probably would have been classed as a cot death victim, had it not been with the baby at the time to save it."

Now Clive, along with his business partner for the past two years, Tony Roper, has devised a new type of monitor with the help of consultant paediatrician Dr Dewi Evans, of Morrison Hospital, Swansea. So far it has involved nine years of research and six years of development.

Clive says: "The alarm is not fully perfected yet but we have designed it to sell at the lowest price possible."

"It will cost £95 and we hope to produce £49.99 a year. If the demand exceeds that then we will double production."

The device is the size of a cigarette packet and has a short lead coming out of it. The lead is attached to the lower part of the

body and monitors the baby's temperature, triggering an alarm to warn of any drastic changes.

Clive says: "Once I started to seriously investigate the syndrome, it took over my life. A lot of parents allowed me into their homes to carry out my research.

"I used to sit up all night with their babies, monitoring their temperature at intervals with a digital thermometer. But the long hours were destroying me."

"So my friends used to come along and help."

Cause

"At the time I believed strongly that viruses were the cause. But I have found that a lot of babies die prior to a viral infection and the only way I could detect that was by monitoring the temperature variations.

"I went into hundreds of homes in all sorts of environments and recorded the temperatures of the babies.

"I found that many cot deaths are also caused by a combination of viral illnesses, over-wrapping the baby and central heating.

"Some babies' temperatures I have tested have been as high as 40°C instead of 36°C — they would literally boil to death."

This theory is backed by Dr A. Stanton of Scarborough Hospital, North Yorkshire, who has published articles about over-wrapping babies. But getting credibility from the medical profession for his theories has not been easy for Clive.

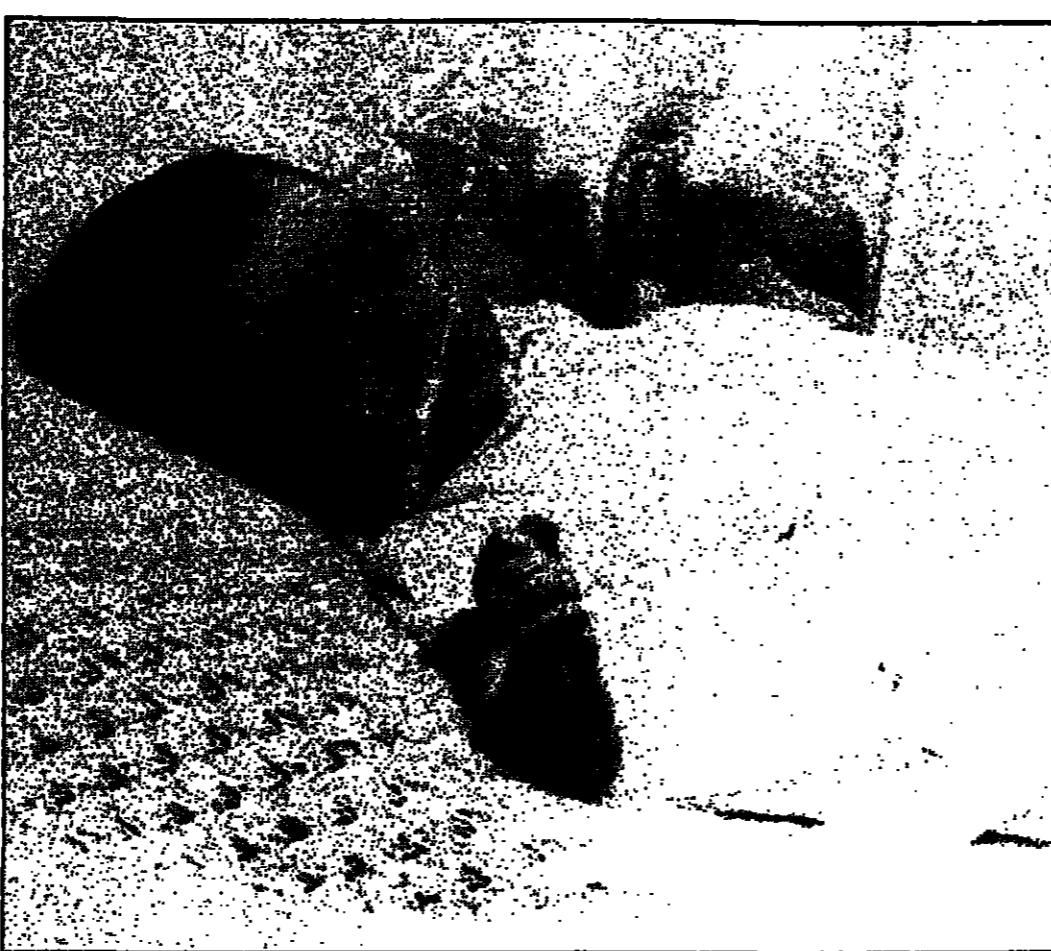
He recalls: "My obsession with research into sudden deaths has been a very gradual process. I didn't make it my goal in life after Stephen's death."

"But from that time on cot deaths seemed to crop up everywhere — on the television and in the newspapers."

"I started going to the library to find out more about the subject and started to read medical journals out of curiosity.

"We were told by the doctor to keep him in for 14 days. This was the 12th day."

"At 2 am Stephen woke up. He was in the same bedroom as my wife and I. There was a bright moon that night and the curtains were slightly apart. A shaft of moonlight was shining across Stephen's eyes and that was what woke him up."



Baby Stephen Thomas who died of Cot Death Syndrome, a sudden affliction that still baffles doctors.

After extensive research, he took his findings to doctors. But gathering facts was one thing — convincing the medical profession was quite different.

Clive says: "When I took my recordings to doctors they would just put them into their desk drawers — and promptly forget about them."

"Since then I have spent £200,000 of my own money on the research and have almost been made bankrupt three times. But now my theory is undisputed by doctors."

"I have the only workforce totally dedicated to finding the reasons and causes of cot deaths. It has taken over their lives too."

But Clive will never forget the night Stephen died.

He says: "It happened on Friday the 13th. Stephen was five months old and had caught a heavy cold in the previous week."

"We were told by the doctor to keep him in for 14 days. This was the 12th day."

"At 2 am Stephen woke up. He was in the same bedroom as my wife and I. There was a bright moon that night and the curtains were slightly apart. A shaft of moonlight was shining across Stephen's eyes and that was what woke him up."

He says: "My fear of the baby was that it could boil to death. It was laughing and giggling. I closed the curtains and tickled him."

"The next morning we woke up late — 9.15 am. Stephen used to wake up every morning at 8 o'clock without fail. He wasn't seven feet away from us. As soon as I woke up I knew he was dead."

"That was in 1971 and the doctors could offer us no explanation why it happened. But I know for a fact, now, that the reason was that Stephen was over-wrap-

ped because the place we lived in at the time was cold."

Sadly, after Stephen's death, Clive's marriage fell apart and after seven years together he and his wife parted.

But Clive was desperate to have another child and he remarried.

He says: "My second wife and I had a boy called Shane. But I just couldn't bear to be with that baby after dark."

"I remember one night when Shane was about five months

old because the place we lived in at the time was cold."

Sadly, after Stephen's death, Clive's marriage fell apart and after seven years together he and his wife parted.

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He says: "Rebecca was nearly two years old. She was such a happy baby, always bouncing about in her cot. Gradually, I was broken in, as it were, with her."

"Rebecca is a very strong person — a lot stronger than me. She stopped me from running away all the time."

"She even made me go along to the birth when our daughter Lisa came along. I would have run away to Australia if I could! But I went and it was a moving experience."

Rebecca is now seven. Lisa is three years old and there is also little Jolene, 11 months old.

Clive adds: "She is a beautiful healthy baby — but one thing is certain, we are very careful not to over-wrap her when she has a cold."

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Two years of talks create international media, entertainment empire

Time and Warner spurn foreign suitors to form world giant

NEW YORK, March 5. (Agencies): Two American firms launched in the roaring Twenties, published Time Inc. and film and music giant Warner Communications Inc., have spurned foreign suitors and agreed to merge into the world's largest media enterprise.

The deal, announced yesterday, will make Time Warner Inc. a huge entertainment and media conglomerate set to challenge competitors worldwide with a market value of \$18 billion and annual revenue of \$10 billion.

"Only strong American companies will survive after the formation of a unified European market in 1992," Warner chairman Steven Ross said in an interview with the New York Times published today.

Accord

Under the merger accord, Time will acquire Warner through an exchange of stock, forming a media empire that will

be a world leader in recorded music and music publishing, magazine and book publishing, filmmaking and cable television.

The agreement, which includes \$3 billion of long-term debt, would be the second-largest corporate merger in US history after Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Co.'s \$25-billion acquisition late last year of RJR Nabisco Inc.

Target

Time and Warner, both New York-based companies, were founded in 1923 by American entrepreneurs. Each has seen off rumours of takeovers, including some from abroad, while acquiring prize new properties and seeking continued independence.

In 1983 Warner was a takeover target of Australian-born Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. Ltd and instead reached a deal with Chris-Craft Industries.

Interest rates will remain high unless deficit cut, says Greenspan

WASHINGTON, March 5. (AP): Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan said last week that US interest rates will remain high unless Congress and the Bush administration do a creditable job of cutting the budget deficit.

The budget deficit must be brought down. While it is beginning to contemplate the healthy growth of recent years in the context of large budget deficits, it is fanciful to conclude that these deficits have no adverse consequences," the head of the American central bank told the Senate Budget Committee.

"Allowing deficits to persist courts instability in the near term and threatens potentially significant reductions over time in the United States standard of living," he said in his first congressional appearance since the Fed boosted its key bank lending rate last Friday.

Higher

The economy, according to the Fed's reading, is in danger of overheating. Retail price inflation, at an already-too-high 4.4 per cent in 1987 and 1988, could ratchet higher because of tight labour markets and strained factory capacity. Fed officials believe.

On Friday, the Fed sent a dramatic signal of its intent to keep inflation under control by increasing its discount rate, the interest charged member banks for short-term loans, from 6.5 per cent to 7 per cent, the highest level in three years.

Sen. James Sasser, chairman of the Budget Panel, called the increase "an unmistakeable message to the President and the Congress that we better put our fiscal affairs in order." However, he added, "I am afraid that the message is simply not being heard."

Hopes

The Fed's anti-inflation campaign has put it at odds with President George Bush's administration, which hopes to keep the deficit under control without raising taxes.

Higher interest rates, by adding to the cost of carrying the \$2.7 trillion national debt and by eventually slowing the economy, make that more difficult.

Both Bush's budget and his plan to rescue the savings and loan industry depend on sharply falling interest rates. And on Saturday the President acknowledged: "I can't say I'm happy about the rise in interest rates."

North Sea oil output down

ABU DHABI, March 5. (OPECNA): British oil output in January fell by 250,000 BPD over December to 1.90 million BPD, according to the Royal Bank of Scotland.

The bank's oil index report, published here last week, said the January figure represented a 26.2 per cent decline on January 1988.

Production

The sharp fall in production, which the bank said was higher than expected, resulted from major and unscheduled curtailment of supplies because of production shutdowns in four of the offshore fields. Another reason was the fall in the value of the pound sterling against the dollar.

The Royal Bank, however, pointed out that the total value of British oil production had increased during January — thanks to OPEC's November agreement which had pushed up North Sea Brent crude prices from \$14.30 to 16.87 a barrel.

which bought a major stake in Warner, now amounting to 11 per cent, to foil the Murdoch bid.

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The merger follows increasing foreign media purchases of US publishers and communications firms, deals which grew from \$6.5 billion in 1987 to nearly \$10 billion last year.

"The last \$4 or five billion worth of magazine deals in the United States have been foreign companies buying into the American market," Time president Nick Nicholas told the New York Times.

The biggest spender last year was News Corp. Ltd, which

agreed to buy Triangle Publications, publisher of America's high-circulation TV Guide, for \$3 billion.

British publisher Robert Maxwell Communications Corp. paid \$2.6 billion to buy MacMillan Inc., one of the last big independent publishers, and French publisher Hachette SA spent over \$1 billion on US properties.

Time is the largest US magazine publisher, with combined circulation of 30 million and 120 million readers worldwide.

Warner is the parent of Warner Bros movie studio. It has been among the top three studios for the last 15 years and has earned the industry's largest revenues and profits since 1969.

Warner is the largest US record firm and second-largest in the world after the CBS-Sony Group. Last year it bought Lorimar Telepictures Corp.

Hollywood's leading television producer, for \$650 million.

Time vice-chairman Gerald Levin said after the agreement was announced yesterday that the two companies — both of which were considered prime takeover targets — had negotiated for two years before producing the merger deal.

The new company will have co-chief executive officers and a board of directors made up of equal numbers named by each company.

Business

By merging in what is legally a tax-free pooling of interests, the companies avoid the financial drain that usually accompanies huge acquisitions. Glenn Britt, Time's chief financial officer, called it "an old-fashioned merger."

"I think we can contrast this to a lot of other transactions we see going on in America, where companies end up being over-

leveraged and so constrained they can't do anything," Britt said.

"This is a very important business for this country, and we think it's significant that we're forming what will be the largest global media company, and that it's American-owned and US-based," Britt said.

Time executives have been predicting recently that there will eventually be about half a dozen global powers in the media and entertainment business and have vowed to make their company one of them.

The companies have extensive cable television interests which together will rank second in the United States.

"Together we will be a worldwide leader in all our businesses, enabling us to create and innovate in ways each could only dream about before," Ross and Time chairman Richard Munro said in a statement.

China wants to help Iran's reconstruction

NICOSIA, March 5. (Reuters): Chinese Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun, visiting Tehran in the footsteps of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, has said that Beijing wants to help Iran's post-war reconstruction.

The forthcoming meeting of the interim committee of the International Monetary Fund is likely to witness a battle of wits between the US on one side and the IMF and all other nations on other over the IMF's request for a 50 per cent increase on its quota for capital over the next five years.

The US insists that the IMF does not need the money, that it has \$40 billion equivalent in quotas and another \$20 to 25 billion in borrowing arrangements.

GCC to set up \$500m joint venture with Iraq

ABU DHABI, March 5. (Reuters): The six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) is planning a \$500 million joint venture with Iraq on industrial and trade projects, the official United Arab Emirates (UAE) news agency WAM said today.

Mohammed Abdullah Al Mulla, secretary general of the GCC Chamber of Commerce Federation, told WAM the venture would take advantage of Iraq's easing of restrictions on foreign investment and encouragement of privatisation to revive its war-damaged economy.

The report notes that the Soviet Union sharply reduced its presence in the syndicated credit market last year even though its debt to foreign banks increased.

In 1987, the Soviet Union paid a record-low 1/8 percentage point over Libor, the London interbank loan rate for an eight-year loan. Subsequently, the lending charge has increased to 1/4 percentage point over Libor, but the report notes that Western banks have shown "very little enthusiasm" to lend at such thin margins.

World Business Summary

Perez continues to support economic austerity plan

CARACAS, Venezuela, March 5. (AP): President Carlos Andres Perez has promised to continue to support a government economic austerity programme that touched off four days of riots and looting. In a letter sent yesterday to International Monetary Fund president Michel Camdessus, Perez said his country was committed to the economic reforms. The austerity measures are required under an agreement with the IMF in exchange for a \$4.3-billion loan over the next three years. The bloodiest protests in Venezuela's history crammed hospitals with victims. The disturbances were touched off on Monday by bus fare increases, and then evolved into nationwide demonstrations that killed at least 300 people. Perez said the violence injured 2,000 people. News reports have said several thousand people were detained. In his letter to Camdessus, Perez said the IMF-backed reforms "gravely affect the impoverished sectors of the country that explode in desperate violence like we saw unleashed in Caracas." and warned that the crisis was getting "bigger and deeper." The reforms include unification of an exchange system to stem a fall in central bank reserves and elimination of price controls. A businessman said on Saturday that the government price-control reforms were unclear. "Businesses don't know what to do and so they're paralysing production," said the businessman, who asked not to be identified. Authorities loosened a curfew in the capital on Saturday and reduced the number of National Guard units on the streets. Town trucks cleared burned buses from the intersections. Long lines of people stood outside distribution centres and the few food stores open for business. News reports said some coffees were arriving with two bodies inside because there weren't enough caskets to go around. The director of the largest hospital in the city said more officials called on medical officials to help them with the bodies. The hospital director, Dr Carmen Carrasco, said 1,881 injured people crowded her 700-bed hospital Perez Carrasco. She said most of the injured were young men with bullet wounds. "We've been doing very well under the circumstances," she said. Insurance companies estimated damage to their clients was about \$76 million, but many looted businesses had no coverage, according to news reports. The military had airlifted 50 tons of food into Caracas in the last three days, news reports said.

Financier indicted in French insider trading row

PARIS, March 5. (Reuters): Max Thoret, a financier close to the Socialist Party, was charged with insider trading in connection with a French state-owned firm's \$1.25-billion takeover of a US company, judicial sources said. Investigating magistrate Edith Boizet travelled from Paris to the country home of Thoret, who is convalescing from heart trouble, to press the charges, the sources said. Thoret, 76, was hospitalised shortly before the stock exchange watchdog Cob released a report last month on the takeover of US-based packaging firm Triangle Industries Inc by the Pechiney Aluminium Group last November. Five people have already been charged in connection with the scandal, including a friend of Socialist President Francois Mitterrand. Roger-Patrice Pelat, indicted for benefiting from insider trading, Pelat, a wartime resistance friend of the president, was rushed to hospital a few days ago also suffering from heart trouble. Boizet on Thursday questioned several high-ranking government and presidential aides in connection with the case but had been unable to hear Thoret due to his illness, judicial sources said. The Cob report said it had tape-recorded phone calls from Thoret's CPE brokerage firm to a London merchant bank indicating the firm was buying shares in Triangle just ahead of the takeover, and with hardly any knowledge of the company. "It appears that one of the directors of the CPE benefited from privileged information," it said. Thoret has denied he had inside knowledge of the takeover, saying he got wind from a market tip-sheet and that his purchases were a coincidence. Under French law, toughened up a year ago to smooth the way for what Paris hopes will be a big expansion of its securities market, insider-trading offenders face up to two years in prison or fines of up to five million francs (\$800,000) on conviction.

Iran bans imports of cigarettes and tobacco

NICOSIA, Cyprus, March 5. (AP): Iran has banned imports of cigarettes and tobacco due to the high cost of imports and scarce foreign exchange, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported yesterday. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the details of the ban, such as when it took effect, were not available, but reported that the ban was announced by the State Tobacco Company during a one-day seminar in the tobacco-growing town of Tirtash, in northern Mazandaran province. It said that Iran imported 15,400 tons of tobacco and cigarettes during 1985-86 at a cost of \$124.4 million, mainly from Bulgaria and Switzerland. But during a five-year period, starting in 1982, tobacco production in Iran grew from 21,000 tons per year to 24,000 tons, the agency said. Iranians can purchase cigarettes with government-issued coupons for 300 rials (\$4.5) per pack, the agency reported. But in the flourishing black market the better brands of locally made cigarettes cost as much as the equivalent of \$15 a pack. Smuggled, American-made, Winston cigarettes, fetch the premium price of 1,200 rials (\$18) per pack. Smoking prices have forced many smokers to buy single cigarettes, which are sold at roadside by enterprising, unemployed men who buy cigarette coupons from non-smokers and then sell single cigarettes to make a greater profit. Last year, the joke among Iranian smokers was that if cigarette prices rose any higher, they would find roadside kiosks selling single puffs of cigarettes.

Algerian oil firm to launch independent subsidiaries

ALGIERS, March 5. (OPECNA): Sonatrach, the Algerian national oil company, has decided to launch independent subsidiaries, with an announcement expected "within weeks," according to Minister of Energy and Petrochemical Industries Sakk Boussoua. The minister, who was speaking in an interview with the "El Moudjahid" newspaper, said it was "regrettable" that despite a budget of \$226 million for prospecting and research activities, the performance had not been satisfactory. He said while a large number of exploration contracts with foreign companies were already in existence, negotiations for signing additional ones were in progress. New permits would be granted for central Sahara and the Bechar area on the border of Morocco. He said co-operation with African and Maghreb countries would continue, but ruled out the possibility of Algerian companies taking up external assignments for the present. Boussoua said 20 per cent of the country's active population was unemployed, a situation which had made the development of the energy sector all the more crucial.

WANTED Female Secretary

Experienced in office work, self-correspondence, shorthand, to join work immediately, should have own transport, transferable residence. Preference will be given to unmarried applicants.

Working hrs 8.30 am to 1.30 pm & 4.30 to 8 pm. Office located near Faber's Bldg. (Sham). Those interested write contact phone no: P.O. Box 1869 (Sofia), Code 13019, with recent photograph.

BUSINESS

Stocks and bonds rally

US interest rate fears ease

NEW YORK, March 5. (UPI): Stock prices gained on the week as strength in the bond market helped to ease investors' recent concerns about the outlook for inflation and interest rates.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which rose 8.58 on Friday to end up at 2,274.29, gained a total of 28.75 points on the week, or 1.3 per cent.

Broader market indicators also advanced. The New York Stock Exchange composite index rose 2.18 to 163.90, while Standard and Poor's 500-stock index climbed 28.75 to close the week at 224.29.

Advances led declines 1,094-733 among the 2,137 issues traded. Big Board volume totalled 778,544,950 shares, compared with 616,181,810 last week and 1,040,324,130 a year ago.

Corporate profits soar

Australia battles inflation as economy heats up

SYDNEY, March 5: Want to buy a new car? Don't go to Dominelli's Ford dealership, unless you're prepared to wait as long as four months for one of the bigger models made in Australia.

"If you ordered a Fairlane from me today, I couldn't supply you till May or June," says Ferdi Dominelli, who could deliver a locally made Falcon in April or May. Such waits are driving some of his customers to buy imported cars, though "not all, thank God." He's looking for a 10 per cent increase in 1989 sales from last year, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Projections

Dominelli's order books are a clue to what has gone right in Australia's economy in the past eight months — and what has gone wrong. The economy is booming on the back of strong commodities prices, corporate profits are up and unemployment is down. But inflation is outpacing official projections, interest rates have climbed and imports are soaring, partly because domestic manufacturers can't meet demand.

Hong Kong surplus expected to outstrip forecast at £1 billion

HONG KONG, March 5: Piers Jacobs, Hong Kong's financial secretary, said he expects a HK\$14.2 billion (£1.04 billion) fiscal surplus for 1988-89 — almost treble the HK\$5.5 billion forecast last year, according to the Times.

He expects a HK\$11.5 billion surplus in 1989-90.

Reserves are set to reach HK\$71 billion by the end of financial year 1989-90, but Jacobs resisted the temptation to cut taxes drastically or boost capital spending in his budget. "We should not spend more simply because we have collected more," he said in his 1989/90 budget speech yesterday.

He cut the standard rate of personal income tax from 15.5 per cent to 15 per cent and reduced corporate profit taxes from 17 per cent to 16.5 per cent — a loss to the government of about HK\$1.1 billion.

Jacobs blamed inflation for not being more generous, although he did raise the tax threshold to take 60,000 taxpayers out of the tax net.

He said he was keeping a tight grip on the money supply in a bid to fight inflation, which he said was 7.5 per cent in 1988. "For Hong Kong, this is high," he said, adding he expected it to be 8.5 per cent this year. He admitted his policy to fight inflation was limited. "There are few viable policy options open to a small, externally-oriented economy like ours."

He said his best weapons were high interest rates and not spending too much of the budget surplus. He did, however, keep tax rises on petrol, alcohol and tobacco in line with inflation, introduced a HK\$20 million allowance for single parents or widows with children and promised separate tax for married women next year.

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Analysts said renewed concerns about the outlook for inflation and interest rates led investors to look to the bond market to set the stage for buying in the wake of last week's 79.28-point plunge.

As a result, the biggest day of the week was on Thursday, when news that West Germany's Deutsche Bundesbank failed to raise its key lending rates led to sharp gains in bond prices, which in turn fuelled a rally in stocks.

Thursday's rally pushed the Dow up 22.67 points, and modest gains won every other day except Wednesday allowed the market to post a gain on the week at 224.29.

Advances led declines 1,094-733 among the 2,137 issues traded. Big Board volume totalled 778,544,950 shares, compared with 616,181,810 last week and 1,040,324,130 a year ago.

Investors

"There are some investors who believe interest rates won't move much higher, but unless we see an economic slowdown soon, the market will not see any significant upward growth," he said.

Economic news released this week did little to change Goldman's forecast.

The government's index of leading economic indicators jumped 0.6 per cent in January, and personal income in January rose 1.8 per cent.

"The gains in the market from mid-November through early February were won amid a dis-

regard for rising interest rates," Goldman said. "But stocks are simply getting overvalued compared with fixed-income investments."

Jon Grovenor, head of equity trading at Ladenburg, Thalman and Co. Inc., said investors this week were on edge since many were unsure of their next move.

"A lot of people have been jockeying around for positions as they wait for the interest-rate situation to be resolved," he said.

The February employment report, due out on March 10, will shed more light on that front, he said.

On the trading floor this week, Texas Utilities was the most active NYSE issue, ending unchanged at 28 1/2. The stock traded ex-dividend on Tuesday.

US Shoe followed, plunging 6 1/4 to 19 1/2 after the financially

troubled company agreed to sell its footwear unit to a group headed by Merrill Lynch Capital partners. Analysts said investors were disappointed that buyers for the company's other units did not emerge to maximise shareholder value.

Climbed

Storage Technology was third, gaining 1/8 to 2.

Among the active blue chips, Union Carbide rose 1 3/8 to 31 7/8, AT and T added 3/4 to 30 1/2 and American Express climbed 7/8 to 30 1/8. Elsewhere in the sector, IBM fell 1/4 to 120 7/8 and General Electric eased 1/2 to 44 3/4.

Oil stocks rallied following a rise in oil prices. The Soviet Union and other non-members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed to cut back their crude oil exports.

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Climbed

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SALMIYA, near the Indian School, 2 or 3 bedroom flat on the ground floor required from 1st April. Furniture buying considered. Tele. 5614381 before 12 noon or after 3 pm. (AT2-46312-3)

For Rent

BAYAN, Area 3, Road 22, Street 4, House 15. Half villa, CAC, with 5 bedrooms, 2 halls, 4 bathrooms and kitchen. Rent KD40. Tele. Mr Bedar, 2531525. (AT3-46286-3)

QURTUBA, one floor of deluxe villa, CAC, with 5 bedrooms, hall, kitchen, 3 bathrooms, intercom and separate entrance. Tele. 5313656. (AT3-46318-3)

Available

VARWANIYA, behind the Holiday Inn Sharq accommodation in a CAC flat with tele facilities for an Indian Muslim. Tele. 474129. (AT2-46311-2)

DASMA, Area 1, Road 18, House 4. One room for a small family only. Tele. Mr Nadir, 2527235. 2403097. (AT3-46321-3)

SALMIYA, Block 10, near the Lotus Video. One room with water, electricity and tele facilities, for a small family, spinsters or bachelor, to share with a family. Tele. 5619721. (AT1-46287-3)

SALMIYA, near the Educational Centre, accommodation for one Indian bachelor to share with another bachelor. Bus routes 15, 24, 45, 30, 19. Tele. 5749750. 10 am - 9 pm. (AT1-46285-3)

SHAAB, near the Co-operative, House No. 8, Street 36, Block 3. One room with kitchen facilities, for a small family, working girls or bachelors, to share with an Indian family. Tele. Mr Pinto, 2422238. 1-2 pm. (AT3-46298-3)

FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

SALMIYA, close to Indian School, 2 bedroom flat with large hall, central AC, carpets and showcase, for sale. Tele. Mr Ali, 5638339, mornings. 4818135, evenings. (AT1-46286-3)

STEREO, sewing machine, sofa set, cupboards and many other household items. Tele. 5624561. (AT2-46314-2)

GERMAN bed set KD120, dining table (extendable) with five chairs, KD45, black sofa, 3 seater, KD20. IKEA baby cot KD15, centre + side glass tables KD10 and miscellaneous items. Tele. 5639408. (AT3-46283-1)

SOFA set cum bed with black centre table in good condition, KD90, dining table for six persons, KD15. Also Ariston refrigerator KD10. Tele. 5629867. (AT2-46304-2)

TOYOTA Crown Super Saloon, 1982, red, automatic, with AC, in very good condition. KD1,100. cash. Tele. Mr Ahmed Anwar, 5614561. (AT3-46319-3)

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TOYOTA Cressida, 1982, automatic, with AC, for immediate sale. Tele. Mr Maini, 4873939.

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PLYMOUTH Estate, 1979, blue, with 6 cylinders, in good running order. KD300. Tele. Mr Mark, 240900 ext. 2022. (AT1-46287-3)

MERCEDES 280E, 1981, model, insured up to Dec 89, blue with full options. KD 2,000. Tele. Mr Mathew, 3261653. (AT1-46282-3)

Cars

MITSUBISHI Colt, 1986, white, automatic, with AC, AM/FM and cassette, in excellent condition. KD350 for owner, KD770 by instalments. Tele. 5758646 after 4 pm. (AT1-46267-3)

NISSAN Liberty, 1985, white, 55,000 kms, automatic, insured up to 24.10.1989, with AC, 4 doors and sunroof. KD1,200/KD200 down payment. KD49 by instalments in 24 months. Tele. Andy, 5339174 after 2 pm. (AT1-46269-3)

CITROEN BX 16 TRS, 1985, automatic, with AC and roof-rack, green metallic. In good condition. KD1,500 ono. Tele. Tamara, 2402267, during working hours. (AT6-46288-3)

MITSUBISHI Lancer GLX 1984 low mileage, 23,000 kms, like new. One woman driver, purchased new and well maintained. Insurance paid up to 1990. KD1,300. Tele. 3721871, 3260233 ext. 3177. (AT2-46306-3)

TOYOTA Crown Super Saloon, 1982, red, automatic, with AC, in very good condition. KD1,100. cash. Tele. Mr Ahmed Anwar, 5614561. (AT3-46319-3)

Vacant

MAID required for a small Indian family with 2 children, to live-in. Must speak English. Tele. 5715662.

(AT2-46303-2)

MAID required immediately for a small family. Must be Muslim and speak English. Tele. Mrs Alicia 4875332. (AT3-46315-2)

(AT3-46301-3)

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SPORTS

Johnson first in qualifying round of American Cup gymnastics

FAIRFAX, Virginia, March 5, (UPI): Brandy Johnson, overshadowed by Phoebe Mills among US gymnasts in the Seoul Olympics, placed first in yesterday's qualifying round of the McDonald's American Cup, with defending champion Mills in close pursuit.

Facing a field of top female gymnasts from 12 nations, Johnson posted the highest scores in the floor exercise and uneven bars and placed second in the beam to surge into today's medal round with an overall four-event score of 39.474.

Mills produced the highest score in the field of the vault en route to a four-event 39.324, good enough for second place. Both Johnson and Mills were competing for the first time since the Olympics.

The top eight finishers on the men's and women's side compete for the all-around titles today.

Pleaseed

"It was great," Johnson, 15, said of her performance. "I hit all my routines. I was really pleased. I couldn't have asked for anything better."

On the men's side, Vitali Marinich of the Soviet Union placed first with a six-event score of 57.0, with American Lance Ringwald and Spain's Alfonso Rodriguez knotted in second place.

The American women finished first, second and third during yesterday's round, but third place finisher Chelle Stack, who placed third in last year's American Cup, was eliminated from the medal round because only two gymnasts from one country were eligible to advance.

In the Olympics in South Korea, Mills, 16, earned a bronze medal on the beam to become the first American woman to capture a medal in a non-boycotted Olympics. Mary Lou Retton was a gold medalist in the 1984 Games that were boycotted by the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc nations.

But Johnson was the highest American finisher in the all-around gymnastics competition during the Olympics.

Johnson said she hopes a victory in the American Cup will help her to qualify for the 1988 Olympics.

Big step

"I've dreamed about it for the past three weeks, so (winning) it would mean the world to me. It would be a big step toward the world championships," Johnson said.

Mills, who has grown an inch and gained five pounds since September, introduced her new floor exercise, finishing in a second place tie with Stack.

"I felt I did well," Mills said. "It was the first competition in a long time. Tomorrow I think I can do a lot better on some of the things, some wobbles on the beam that I can fix. I'll have more confidence after being out there this time."

Johnson, who finished eighth in the all-around competition at last year's American Cup, was awarded a 9.4 for a bubbly floor exercise and earned a 9.862 on the bars and 9.830 on the beam. Her lowest score was delivered on the vault, where she tied for third with Olesya Dudnik of the Soviet Union with a 9.862.

Also advancing to today's final round among the women were: Dudnik, Henriette Onodi of Hungary, Maru Kosuge of Japan, Karine Mermel of France, Stella Uneh of Canada and Dianka Vodenitcharova of Bulgaria.

The other five competitors advancing to today's medal round on the men's side were: Jorgo of Italy, Patrick Kirby of the United States, Andre Hempel of East Germany, Li Jing of China and Makoto Aihara of Japan.

Austrian wins

WINTER PARK, Colorado, March 5, (AP): Austrian rookie Bernhard Krauss won his third consecutive US Pro Tour victory yesterday when he skied to first place in the Giant Slalom here.

Sweden's Jorgen Sundqvist finished second, while fellow countryman Gunnar Neurisser came in third. Ove Nygren of Norway took fourth place.

American Steve Mahre was eliminated after hooking his arm on a gate and skiing off the course in the second round of the quarterfinals.

"I think my hardest race today was Sundqvist in the final," Krauss said after defeating the overall tour points leader. "You just keep quiet on your course and go full speed."

Sundqvist continued to hold tight to the Pro Tour's overall first place with 435 points. He was followed by American Phil Mahre with 380 points. Niklas Lindqvist was in third place with 370 points and Krauss moved into fourth place yesterday with 325 points.

GILBERT SUFFERS DEFEAT IN THE FINAL**McEnroe cruises to record fifth WCT title**

DALLAS, March 5, (Reuter): John McEnroe's comeback gained momentum yesterday as he cruised to a record fifth title at the \$685,000 World Championship Tennis finals with a 6-3 6-3 7-6 victory over fellow American Brad Gilbert.

"I wouldn't say this was sentimental but rather special because this was the first really big win of my career back in 1979," said the 30-year-old former world number one, now ranked sixth.

McEnroe received a major confidence boost in his efforts to regain the number one ranking on Friday when he beat old rival Ivan Lendl for the first time in more than three years.

Confident

"If you don't think you can do it, then you won't do it. I believe I am strong and confident," McEnroe said of returning to number one.

McEnroe faced break point in

the very first game of the final, but that turned out to be a rare set-back as he ploughed through Gilbert in two hours 31 minutes.

McEnroe broke the 16th-ranked Gilbert in the sixth game to lead 4-2 and closed out the set with perfectly angled volleys.

"I felt I needed a good start and that was very important," said McEnroe, who managed just four hours sleep after beating Lendl in four sets late on Friday night.

"I think if I had lost the third set tiebreaker it would have been hard to overcome," he said.

Stunned

McEnroe crowded the net at every opportunity and stunned Gilbert by continually cutting off his passing shots. His reflexes at the net were superb throughout the match.

Gilbert was surprised by his opponent's speed and said it was like facing the McEnroe of old. "I hit a few lobs and they were

going long," said Gilbert of his attempts to drive McEnroe from the net. "He was reading my passing shots and hit winners off them because he was so close to the net."

McEnroe broke Gilbert's serve in the first and seventh games of the second set for a 5-2 lead and the two traded breaks to end the set 6-3.

Comeback

The former world number one raced to a 4-2 lead in the third set and had a point for 5-2 on serve, but Gilbert staged a minor comeback and forced the set to the tiebreaker.

McEnroe capitalised on Gilbert's poor second serve and won the tiebreak 7-3 when Gilbert double faulted at matchpoint.

"Right now all I need is a bit of a break because I am tired after playing for seven weeks," said McEnroe after collecting his \$200,000 winner's check.



McEnroe holds up the WCT championship trophy (Reuter wirephoto)

Graf to meet Henricksson in US Hardcourt finals

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 5, (Reuter): Top seed Steffi Graf of West Germany yesterday overcame freezing winds that played havoc with her service to reach the final of the \$200,000 US Women's Hardcourt Tennis Championships.

Despite losing her serve four times, the world number one ousted sixth-seeded Australian Hana Mandlikova 7-6 6-3 to set up a final today with unseeded American Ann Henricksson.

Henricksson reached her first primary circuit final by eliminating unseeded compatriot Katrina Adams 6-3 6-3.

Troubled

Graf, the tournament's defending champion, was more troubled by the 0-degree Celsius temperature and strong winds during the outdoor semifinal than by Mandlikova's play.

"I've never played in such cold, windy weather," said Graf, who raised her 1987 match record to 16-0.

"It was just difficult to play tennis. She was playing all right, but I don't count it as a regular match," the Grand Slam champion said of the one hour 24 minute contest.

But Graf had to work for that first set, in which she dropped her serve three times.

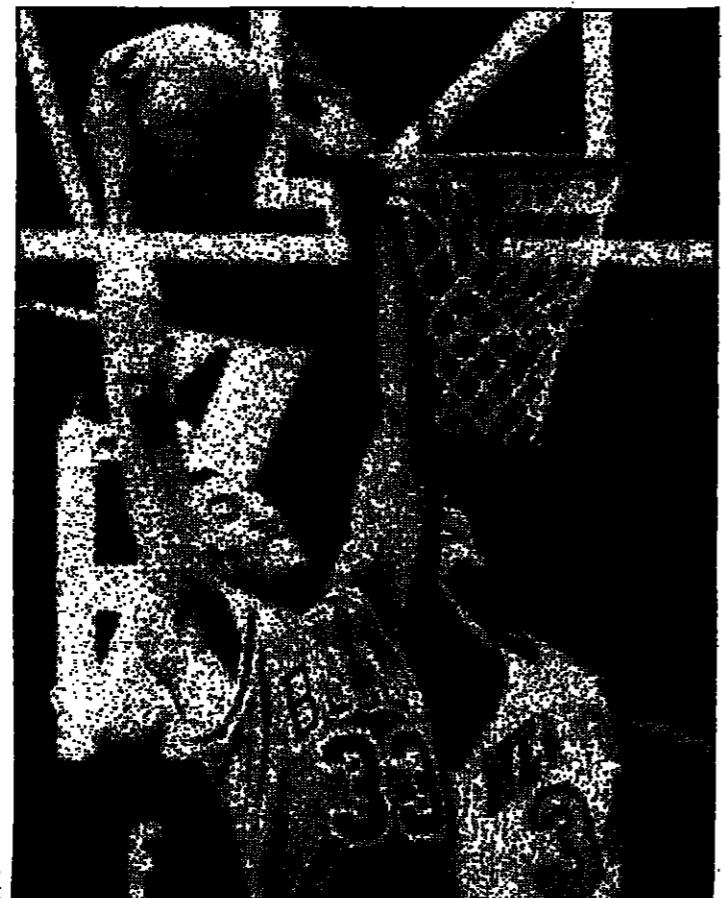
Mandlikova built leads of 2-0 and 4-2 in the opening set. But Graf countered with a pair of key breaks, the second with Mandlikova serving for the set at 5-4.

Mandlikova took an early lead in the tiebreak, but Graf levelled the score at 4-4 and ran off the final three points for the set.

Powering

Graf lost her serve once more in the second set before powering her way through the final three games from 3-3 with a strong volley game and her trademark rocket forehand.

"I just played some great volleys," said Graf. "But it was hard to play. You just don't get any rhythm."

Morris leads New Jersey Nets past Boston Celtics

Chicago Bulls' Scottie Pippen (left) tends off a challenge by Charles Oakley of the New York Knicks in the first half of their match. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEW YORK, March 5, (AP): Rookie Chris Morris scored 20 points, including three free throws in the final minute last night, to lead the New Jersey Nets past the Boston Celtics 98-95 at East Rutherford, New Jersey, in National Basketball Association games.

Boston, which had its three-game winning streak stopped, trailed through most of the fourth quarter before rallying in the closing minutes behind Reggie Lewis and Dennis Johnson.

Bullets 119, Mavericks 105

In Landover, Maryland, Jeff Malone scored 11 of his 28 points during a 13-4 third-quarter surge to pace the Washington Bullets to their third straight home game, beating Los Angeles 119-105 and handing the Clippers their 19th consecutive road loss.

With the Bullets ahead 75-70 with 4:49 left in the period, Malone scored nine straight Washington points, assisted on John Williams' basket and scored on a layup for an 88-74 cushion.

Knicks 122, Bulls 104

In New York, Rod Strickland had season highs of 20 points and 14 assists and Johnny Newman scored 14 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter as the New York Knicks beat Chicago 122-104 for their 23rd consecutive home victory.

Strickland, a rookie, made the first start of his career after Mark Jackson went on the injury list

with torn cartilage in his right knee.

Nuggets 89, Spurs 88

In San Antonio, San Antonio snapped its club-record 13-game losing streak as Frank Brinkowski scored 15 of his 24 points in the second quarter of the \$100,000 Virginia Slims of Oklahoma tennis tournament by eliminating No. 3 seed Raffaella Reggi of Italy in straight sets, 6-3 7-5.

Reggi will face No. 4 seed Leila Meshki of the Soviet Union in today's finals.

Reggi, who upset No. 2 seed Larisa Savchenko of the Soviet Union in the second round, wasted no time in getting untracked. She took the first four games of the first set and held on to close the set at 6-4.

Reggi looked strong in the second set, breaking Brinkowski in the second game, but never came back from four consecutive double faults. She let Brinkowski back into the match in the second set as the Dutch player won the final three games to take the match.

"Winning the doubles last week in Wichita really helped me get prepared for this tournament. This is my first Virginia Slims and I don't plan on changing anything in my game," Brinkowski said.

The 76ers, who completed an eight-game road trip with a 3-5 record, trailed 83-80 after three periods.

Reggi suffers upset in Virginia Slims

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 5, (AP): Unseeded Manon Bollegraf of the Netherlands continued her string of upsets yesterday at the \$100,000 Virginia Slims of Oklahoma tennis tournament by eliminating No. 3 seed Raffaella Reggi of Italy in straight sets, 6-3 7-5.

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Biasion wins second straight Portuguese rally

ESTORIL, Portugal, March 5, (Reuter): World champion Massimo Biasion sped to his second straight victory yesterday in the Portuguese motor rally, but his fast was overshadowed by the death of a driver and the forced withdrawal of many top racers.

Biasion, who had led since the 11th of 37 special stages, coasted home to where the rally began yesterday Tuesday with a comfortable 10 minute 18 second lead over works teammate Markku Alen of Finland.

Dominance

The Italian's victory marked the total dominance of the Lancia team, which took seven of the top 10 places, including the top three spots.

Alessandro Fiorio of Italy finished third at 23 minutes 18 seconds behind his compatriot.

Despite a flawless run by Biasion, the World Championship event was marked by one fatal accident and nagging mechanical mishaps. Only a third of the competitors made it to Estoril.

Yesterday's victory puts Biasion, who also won in Monte Carlo, in commanding lead of the World Drivers Championship with 40 points, followed by Swede Ingvar Carlsson on 20 points. Alen and Fiorio won seven and Sainz had three. Victory in the first special stage was shared by Biasion, Alen and Sainz and one stage was cancelled due to the poor condition of the stretch.

Yesterday's victory puts Biasion, who also won in Monte Carlo, in commanding lead of the World Drivers Championship with 40 points, followed by Swede Ingvar Carlsson on 20 points. Alen, Fiorio and Per Ekholm of Sweden are tied for third place on 15 points.

Norwegian wins first skiing World Cup

FURANO, Japan, March 5, (AP): Christian Ole Furuseth of Norway skied to his first World Cup race victory today, beating Italian star Alberto Tomba by 1.4 seconds in a men's slalom.

"Alpine is more fun," he said. In the World Cup standings, Furuseth's victory was worth 25 points, putting him fourth in the slalom standings with 86 and fifth in the overall standings with 143.

Standings

Girardelli stayed atop the slalom standing with 106, followed by Armin Bittner of West Germany with 102 and Tomba with 100.

Bittner finished eighth in 1:52.86.

Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland, a distant second in the overall standings with 287 points to Girardelli's 407, finished 16th in slalom in 1:55.47 and did not gain any points. Tomba stood overall with 177.

Felix McGrath of the United States finished fifth in 1:52.11, matching his previous best this season, a fifth in a slalom race at St. Anton, Austria, last Dec. 21.

Rudolf Nierlich of Austria, winner of Friday's giant slalom, fell in today's second run and did not finish.

Swiss star Ingemar Stenmark, who is retiring after the current series of World Cup ski races in Japan, ran off the course and did not finish. Stenmark has a record 86 World Cup race victories in his career.

He said he started out in Nordic skiing, "our country's most

popular sport," but after five years, he switched to alpine skiing, his speciality for the last 10 years.

"Alpine is more fun," he said. In the World Cup standings, Furuseth's victory was worth 25 points, putting him fourth in the slalom standings with 86 and fifth in the overall standings with 143.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Forget wins

NANCY, France, March 5. (Reuter): Guy Forget of France, better-known for his exploits as a doubles player, won a singles tournament for the first time in more than two years when he beat Dutchman Michiel Schapers.

Third seed Forget's 6-3 7-6 (7-5) victory over Schapers, seeded seven, in the final of the \$130,000 Lorraine Open grand prix was only the second singles triumph of his career. His previous title was also in France — in Toulouse in 1986.

World's best

AUCKLAND, March 5. (AP): New Zealand's Chrissie Pfitzinger was just over a second off setting a world's best time in a five-kilometre women's road race today.

Pfitzinger, 30, from Auckland, broke clear of Brenda Webb of the United States over the final kilometre to win in 15 minutes, 7 seconds.

Webb, who set the world's best time of 15:05.8 in Cincinnati in 1987, was second in 15:11, followed by New Zealand's Barbara Moore in 15:14 and Sylvia Mosqueda of the United States in 15:25.

Match cancelled

NICOSIA, March 5. (Reuter): A World Cup soccer qualifier between Iran and Thailand scheduled for today has been cancelled because the Thai team could not reach Tehran in time, Iran's official news agency IRNA said.

IRNA said yesterday the Iranian Football Federation announced that the Thai team had encountered "flight difficulties."

Iran beat Thailand 3-0 in their away match in Bangkok on Feb. 23.

Zhao wins marathon

NAGOYA, Japan, March 5. (AP): China's Zhao Youfeng won her second consecutive Nagoya International Women's Marathon today with a time of 2 hours, 28 minutes and 20 seconds.

Zhao, 23, was followed by Muriel Buiset of New Zealand, who crossed the finish line at 2:29.09 before about 10,000 spectators at the Mizuho track and field stadium in Nagoya, central Japan.

Australians lead

TOKYO, March 5. (AP): An Australian yacht sailed by Nicola Green and Karyn Davis won a short course event today and led the four-day international women's 470 class Yacht Championships.

The Australians, who placed sixth in the 1988 summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, beat 18 other yachts in the 500-metre race on the second day of the five-day competition. Yesterday's scheduled races were postponed because of a lack of wind.

Fighter in coma

LYON, France, March 5. (Reuter): Ivory Coast boxer David Thio was in a coma today after being knocked out during a bout against American super-lightweight Terence Alli, hospital officials said.

Thio, 22, took a massive uppercut under the chin from Alli in the ninth round of the non-title fight yesterday.

WBC title

AOMORI, Japan, March 5. (Reuter): Defending champion Kim Yong-Kang of South Korea retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) flyweight boxing title in a points decision against Japanese opponent Yukihito "Leopard" Tamakuma.

The 24-year-old Kim was kept on his toes against the feisty Tamakuma throughout the scheduled 12-round bout in the northern Japanese city.

Inter extend lead over Napoli

ROME, March 5. (Reuter): A goal by Nicola Bertini enabled Internazionale Milan to stretch their lead in the Italian first division to three points today.

They beat Verona 1-0 while their nearest rivals Napoli were held to a goalless draw by lowly Pescara who they had beaten 8-2 when they last met in the league.

Berti's goal, from a cross by Argentine forward Ramon Diaz in the 58th minute, was one of the few high points of an uneventful game.

With strikers Careca, who replaced Francesco Romano early in the second half, and Andrea Carnevale below them best and Argentine captain Diego Maradona tightly marked throughout by Brazilian midfielder Junior, Napoli had a frustrating afternoon.

They ended the day with 31 points to Inter's 34.

O'MALLEY LOSES IN PLAYOFF

James wins Dubai Desert Golf Classic

DUBAI, March 5. (AP): Mark James of England won the £41,660 (\$72,000) first prize in the Karl Litten Overseas Desert Classic today after a playoff with Australian Peter O'Malley.

The pair finished four rounds even at 11-under-par 277.

England's Paul Broadhurst, finished third with a nine under par 280.

Wedged

The sudden death playoff started at the par-4 17th. James, the reigning Spanish Open champ, wedged his second shot to within six feet of the hole. O'Malley had to leave 12 feet from the hole.

O'Malley who had sunk a similar birdie putt at the same hole in the final round, could not repeat the stroke and had to watch as James calmly holed his six-footer for the win.

O'Malley, who hails from New South Wales, won his highest prize so far on the European Professional Golf Association tour — £27,760 (\$48,500), in addition to clinching his European tour card. The 23-year-old Australian took part in the classic, the second event of

this year's European PGA tour, at the invitation of the organizers.

"I'm very disappointed but also delighted to get into this position," said O'Malley after the play-off. "And if every week on the European tour will be like this, I'll do well."

Now that I've got my card, I might as well stay with the tour," added O'Malley who flies next week to be the best man for a friend's wedding in Sydney.

Third success

James said it was his third success in five playoffs. "I was a little

tense at the play-off but it was no more than normal. Somebody has to win and somebody has to lose," he said.

Speaking about his four-under-par 68 today to catch O'Malley, the Englishman said: "I played exceptionally well for the first 12 holes." O'Malley, who led the field on the Emirates Golf Club course after three rounds, scored 70 today.

Broadhurst also experienced his biggest payday in his fourth event as a professional. He shot an even-par 72 today and won

£15,650 (\$25,800).

"I played pretty well but kept leaving myself on the wrong side of the flag. None of the putts seemed to drop," he said.

Saying that he started nervously, the 23-year-old Englishman added: "But I handled the pressure well."

Sweden's Magnus Persson, who was fourth after three rounds was caught by Australian Brett Ogle who fired a 69 today for a total of 282 compared to 283. Persson shot 72.

The Emirates Course, an island of green in the desert bordering the Gulf, is the only all-grass championship golf course in the Arab Middle East.

Scorers

Leading final round scores in the Desert Classic Golf Tournament (British unless stated):

277 Mark James 69 68 72 68, Peter O'Malley (Australia) 71 68 68 70

280 Paul Broadhurst 72 66 70 72

282 Brett Ogle (Australia) 77 69 67

283 Magnus Persson (Sweden) 67

284 Bryan Lane 71 73 73 76

Emmanuel Dussert (France) 71 71 72

70 Jim Rutledge (Canada) 72 70 70

71 Mike Miller 72 74 67 71, Sam

Torrance 70 71 71 72

285 Gordon J. Brand 77 68 70, Jean

Van De Velde (France) 76 72 67 72

Alberto Binaghi (Italy) 68 74 71 74

Joe Higgins 70 72 70 75

288 Howard Clark 74 69 76 69, Des

Smyth (Ireland) 70 72 75 71, Peter

Baker 71 74 72 71, Sten Tinning

(Denmark) 66 73 74 75, Gordon

Brand Jr. 71 71 71 75

289 Robion Mana 74 73 76 66, Paul

Carrigill 73 72 72 73, Eugene Elliott

(US) 71 75 71 73, John Slaughter

(US) 70 70 74, Philip Walton

(Ireland) 70 76 74, Anders Forstrand

(Sweden) 71 71 71 77

290 Grant Turner 73 73 76 68, Paul

Carrigill 73 72 72 73, Eugene Elliott

(US) 71 75 71 73, John Slaughter

(US) 70 70 74, Philip Walton

(Ireland) 70 76 74, Anders Forstrand

(Sweden) 71 71 71 77

291 74 66 and West German Dieter

Baumann third in 7:50.47.

Aouita's victory was particularly satisfying after his mediocre performance at the Seoul Olympics last year where, hampered by injury, he managed only a bronze medal in the 800 metres and did not turn up for the 1,500 semis.

"I'm very happy that I was able to prove that Said Aouita has regained his best form," the Moroccan said after a jubilant victory lap.

"Many people thought after my poor performance in Seoul I would never again be the best."

"Indoor competitions are strange for me, although I had several good meets in the United States. This fills me with high hopes for the summer season."

Sweat

Defending champion Antonio

McKay swept to victory in the men's 400 metres final, accelerating over the last 100 metres to clinch the title in 45.39 seconds, easily the fastest time in the world this year.

Spaniard Cayetano Cornet

took the field through the bell

with McKay third.

The American made his move

in the back straight with Trinidad's Ian Morris in hot, but ultimately unsuccessful, pursuit.

Morris hung on for second place in 46.09 seconds, ahead of Cornet, who clocked 46.40.

(James won after playoff at first extra hole)

280 Paul Broadhurst 72 66 70 72

282 Brett Ogle (Australia) 77 69 67

69

283 Magnus Persson (Sweden) 67

72 72 72

284 Bryan Lane 71 73 73 76

Emmanuel Dussert (France) 71 71 72

70, Jim Rutledge (Canada) 72 70 70

71, Mike Miller 72 74 67 71, Sam

Torrence 70 71 71 72

285 Gordon J. Brand 77 68 70, Jean

Van De Velde (France) 76 72 67 72

Alberto Binaghi (Italy) 68 74 71 74

Joe Higgins 70 72 70 75

288 Howard Clark 74 69 76 69, Des

Smyth (Ireland) 70 72 75 71, Peter

Baker 71 74 72 71, Sten Tinning

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Brand Jr. 71 71 71 75

289 Robion Mana 74 73 76 66, Paul

Carrigill 73 72 72 73, Eugene Elliott

(US) 71 75 71 73, John Slaughter

(US) 70 70 74, Philip Walton

(Ireland) 70 76 74, Anders Forstrand

(Sweden) 71 71 71 77

290 Grant Turner 73 73 76 68, Paul

Carrigill 73 72 72 73, Eugene Elliott

(US) 71 75 71 73, John Slaughter

(US) 70 70 74, Philip Walton

(Ireland) 70 76 74, Anders Forstrand

(Sweden) 71 71 71 77

291 74 66 and West German Dieter

Baumann third in 7:50.47.

Aouita, world champion and record holder in the 5,000 metres, triumphed in a race full of incident and excitement.

Yugoslav Branko Zorko set the early pace and just when it seemed to be flagging American Brian Abshire shot to the front.

Lead

With three laps left, Irishman Frank O'Mara took the lead with Aouita running comfortably in second place.

A lap later, Aouita overtook

O'Mara on the outside to lead the field. Spaniard Jose-Louis Gonzalez set off in pursuit but Aouita was not to be denied and lengthened his stride to cross the line in seven minutes 47.94 seconds.

Gonzalez was second in 7:48.66 and West German Dieter